Comelec delaying quick count–Namfrel

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLES

APRIL 8, 2001 ★ 70 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 121

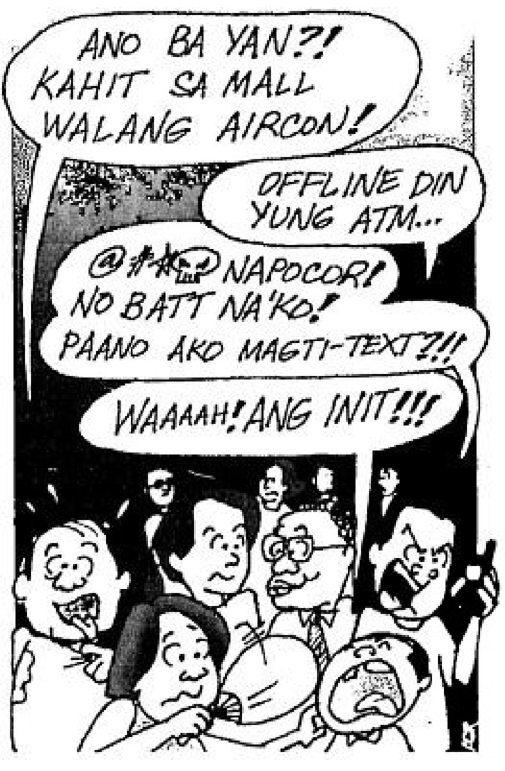
AVANCEÑA

TODAY

- Zeneida Quezon Avanceña on life, peace and her father the President
- Nic Tiongson after the fall

IT'S BACK to basics for SPO4 Edmund Sinedo at the Kamuning Police Station in Quezon City, who records complaints by candle power.

VAL HANDUMON



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WAAAAH! ANG INIT!!!

When the powerful become powerless

BY LEAH SALTERIO, JEROME ANING, CHRISTINE HERRERA AND PHILIP TUBEZA

TV HOST Kris Aquino woke up without her usual coffee. Used to opening her eyes to the smell of freshly brewed coffee, Aquino had to send her driver to the nearby Seattle's Best outlet for her java fix.

Like floods, a blackout is a great leveler. The rich suffer just as greatly, if not more than, the poor.

For the less fortunate, it was just another

WHEN/ A18

BLACK SATURDAY

2 blackouts hit all of Luzon; Gloria rules out sabotage

BEFORE and after Maj. Noel Buan had his long hair cut (inset), he's still as handsome, which fact, President Macapagal notes when she meets on Saturday with the officer who was an NPA captive for 21 months.

JOAN BONDOC

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO AND CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

BLACK Saturday came a week early for Luzon's 35 million inhabitants in the form of not one but two island-wide blackouts yesterday that sparked jitters about election-related sabotage. But the outages turned out to have been caused by no more than transmission line problems.

President Macapagal-Arroyo ruled out political foul play while ordering a thorough investigation of the power failure. She also appealed for patience, saying that it was dangerous to bring full power back too quickly.

Electricity was disrupted at 3:30 a.m. Saturday but was gradually restored in as much as 50 percent of the system before all power was cut off again about 10:10 a.m.

The first blackout was triggered by a tripping in the 230-kilovolt Tayabas-Kalayaan transmission line in Quezon province.

A few hours later, the convertor of the 500-kv Leyte-Luzon interconnection tripped, cutting off the power supply a second time.

"This is purely technical, we have no indication that it was sabotage," National Power Corp. (Napocor) systems vice president Rolly Bacani said in a radio interview.

At a Napocor briefing yesterday, Energy Secretary Jose Camacho assured the public that the power outage had nothing to do with the coming May 14 elections.

In the third Luzon-wide blackout to hit the island since December 1999, cell phone networks went awry, local websites crashed, ATM machines went blank and traffic lights failed.

As temperatures rose to 32.2 degrees Celsius by early afternoon, sweating Metro Manilans rushed to shopping malls only to find that some had no air-conditioning. *(See cartoon story above.)*

BLACK/ A18

Buan didn't break, captors admit

BY CARLITO PABLO, ARMAND N. NOCUM AND TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ARMY Maj. Noel Buan remained an intelligence officer of the Armed Forces of the Philippines throughout his 21-month captivity by the New People's Army, his captors conceded.

Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, Communist Party of the Philippines spokesperson, grudgingly acknowledged to newsmen who covered Buan's release in Oriental Mindoro on Friday that as an intelligence officer, Buan was "*matinik*" (skillful).

When he was released, Buan made a final act of defiance as he was being turned over to his family.

The NPA made him wear a shirt with the print "POW," but Buan draped a towel from his shoulder to hide the garment that marked him a prisoner of war. Buan later changed into a plain white shirt before he was presented to newsmen at the Mangyan community of Barangay Baet in Mansalay town.

Rosal said Buan's release was a welcome development for them because it freed the NPA

BUAN/ A18

OUR apologies to Bishop Jesus Varela of Sorsogon, whom we mistakenly identified as Bishop Capella in a photo caption on the front page of Saturday's INQUIRER issue.

Gloria: I never offered Erap a deal

BY ARMAND NOCUM, PHILIP TUBEZA AND JULIET JAVELLANA

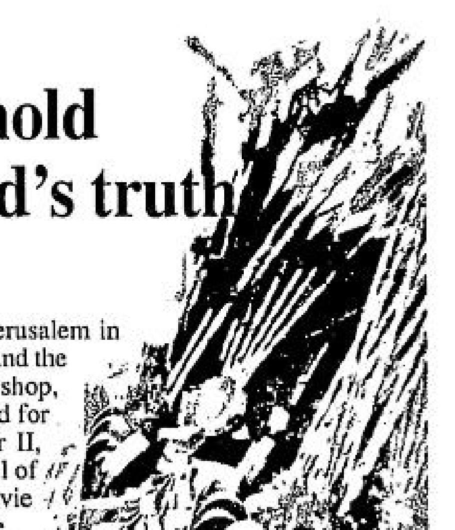
PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday admitted that she had met Joseph Estrada's friend Manuel Zamora to talk about ways to resolve the "Juetengate" crisis, but denied offering a deal allowing Estrada to avoid criminal charges if he resigned.

"I never committed (to having all cases) dropped. That is a very inaccurate story," the President said in a press briefing, reacting to Estrada's claims Friday that she had offered him such a deal before he was ousted from the presidency.

Ms Macapagal said she had accepted an invitation of Zamora, the businessman-brother of former Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora, to meet shortly after Ilocos Sur. Gov. Luis Singson accused Estrada of accepting jueteng bribes and

GLORIA/ A4

Sin on Palm Sunday: Uphold morality, God's truth



BY NORMAN BORDADORA

LIKE Jesus Christ. He entered Jerusalem in triumph to the roar of hosannahs and the waving of palms. Manila Archbishop, Cardinal Sin, who has been hailed for his pivotal role in People Power II, has been crucified for his espousal of the ban on "Live Show," a movie about sex performed live on stage.

Sin faced severe criticism from formerly admiring allies in civil society and show business for his opposition to the movie. Sin and his spokesperson, Msgr. Socrates Villegas, allegedly pressured President Macapagal-Arroyo

SIN/ A18

PAANO MAGKAKA-QUICK COUNT NYAN, E ANDAMING CHECHE-BURECHE?

Comelec delaying quick count–Namfrel

JoeCon says poll body 'making things difficult' for citizens' group despite its accreditation

By Alcuin Papa

THE COMMISSION on Elections is allegedly making life difficult for the National Movement for Free Elections despite the fact that the poll body had finally accredited it as a quick-count group.

"That's how we feel. They are delaying things and making things difficult for us," Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion told the Inquirer in an interview.

The Comelec promulgated last Thursday a 19-page resolution, a copy of which was furnished the INQUIRER by Concepcion, allowing the citizens' group to conduct its quick count of the votes in the May 14 elections.

With the resolution, the Namfrel is entitled to receive the sixth copy of the election returns, the fourth copy of the municipal certificate of canvass together with the statement of votes, and the fourth copy of the provincial certificate of canvass, per Republic Acts 8436 and 8173.

On the other hand, the National Press Club, which the Comelec has also accredited to conduct a quick count, shall be given the seventh copy of the certificate of votes for senators, congressmen and the party-list groups.

Concepcion said, however, that some of the resolution's provisions on the implementation of the quick count were "impractical."

For example, he said, the resolution stipulates that the documents received by Namfrel cannot be used in its unofficial count until "discrepancies" between Namfrel's figures and those of the NPC are "resolved on the municipal and city canvassing board level."

"This will slow us down, and it won't be a quick count anymore. Our responsibility is to the Comelec. Why should we bother to check with the NPC? Why should we be accountable to the NPC?" Concepcion said.

He pointed out that the NPC had not protested the Comelec's accreditation of both groups.

"The NPC doesn't protest or go to the Comelec. We are actually doing all the work (in the accreditation process) for them," he said.

No one was available at the Comelec to comment on Concepcion's statements.

However, Concepcion stopped short of picking a fight with the NPC, saying Namfrel would rather steer clear of it.

"We let the NPC do its own work. We have our own system," he said.

Another provision that Namfrel is objecting to is the Comelec's stipulation that it conduct a dry run of its quick count in one-third of the precincts nationwide within 10 days before the elections.

"Why the need for a simulation? This is an added burden. We have done this (quick count) in the last 18 years and we already have a tried system," Concepcion said.

He said other media entities were also conducting quick counts, but "are they (the Comelec) demanding the same thing?"

"We have a built-in system to check the data in the election returns. We have a manual count and a computerized count. These are all existing," he said.

Concepcion accused Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco of throwing "monkey wrenches" to offset Namfrel's preparedness for its quick count.

"The resolution was written in exactly her wording when she was opposing us. She was supposed to inhibit herself from the deliberations on Namfrel, but she has not done so," Concepcion said.

He also said Namfrel would file a motion for reconsideration on the resolutions it found objectionable.

Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo and Commissioners Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason Jr. have also expressed reservations on some of the conditions and procedural guidelines stated in the resolution.

Meanwhile, Malacañang yesterday announced the release to the Comelec of an additional P810 million to cover all preparatory activities for the conduct of the May 14 elections.

According to a news release issued by the Department of Budget and Management, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said the DBM had released the amount on the instruction of President Macapagal-Arroyo to complement the P1 billion earlier released to the Comelec.

"This brings to P1.8 billion the total cash allocations already released to the Comelec for the May elections, which are sufficient to pay for all preparatory election-related activities of the Comelec," Boncodin said.

She said the remaining P1.1 billion in cash allocation would be released in the first week of May to enable the Comelec to pay for the daily allowances of the Board of Election Inspectors, education supervisors and support staff who will stay at the poll precincts.

Boncodin also announced that the DBM had recently released to the Comelec an additional P512.8 million to supplement the poll body's approved election budget of P2.4 billion.

With this additional release, the total available funds for the conduct of the May polls have effectively increased to P2.9 billion.

"The P512.8-million allotment was charged against the P2.3-billion balance of the continuing appropriations of the Comelec,' Boncodin said.

She explained that because the Comelec has fiscal autonomy, any unexpected balance from its annual appropriations is available for use until fully spent.

Now Goma's getting it from Kuh

By P.C. Tubeza

AFTER being challenged to a televised debate to "test" his credentials, actor Richard Gomez took another punch when singer and fellow party-list candidate Kuh Ledesma tried to distance herself from him.

"Artists- are not all the same. So please, don't lump him with me," Ledesma declared at the weekly press forum at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City yesterday.

The singer said certain quarters were lumping her with Gomez and criticizing them both for using their popularity to win party-list seats in the next Congress.

Gomez is a nominee of Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD), and Ledesma, of Pinatubo.

"I'm not putting him down, but I feel that it is unfair for me when they put us in the same category," Ledesma said.

While admitting that she had been using her popularity to increase her group's visibility, Ledesma said a lot separated her from Gomez and his group.

She said MAD had received government funds from the Estrada administration to publicize the government's campaign against illegal drugs.

Gomez also supported Joseph Estrada right up to his ouster as president by People Power II, she added.

Ledesma said leaders of nongovernment organizations in Zambales and Olongapo launched Pinatubo in May 1997.

She said it received no public funding and even failed to make it in its first try as a party-list contender in the 1998 elections.

"(Gomez) says he wants to represent the underprivileged. But why did he side with what I think was the wrong side (during People Power II)?" Ledesma said.

She said she and other Pinatubo members went to Edsa in January to participate in the second peaceful uprising in the country that successfully deposed an unpopular president.

Ledesma also said, it was unfortunate that groups linked with the past administration were taking advantage of the party-list system to get back to power.

She said her group was not breaking any rule with the use of her popularity to prop it up.

She appealed to other party-list groups to stop "criticizing us to just improve their strategy."

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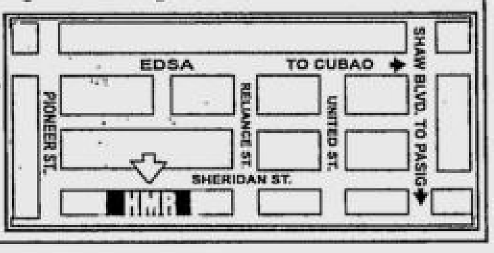

'DELICADEZA'

'Dubious' groups urged to quit party-list race

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

APPREHENSIVE militant organizations yesterday called on "dubious" groups to withdraw from the already crowded party-list race as the latest Pulse Asia survey showed that the majority of those likely to win in the May 14 polls are these "dubious" groups or those allied with the big political parties.

Party-list group Bayan Muna said it would file a petition before the Commission on Elections next week to have these groups, which had been accredited by the Comelec, purged from the list.

"If the major parties have any *delicadeza* left, they should show some respect for genuine party-list groups who are truly representatives of the marginalized... by withdrawing from the elections," said Wilson Fortaleza, president of the Sanlakas party list group claiming to represent the truly marginalized.

Fortaleza called on the major political parties to respect the spirit and essence of the Party List Law, which was enacted to provide a voice for the marginalized and under-represented sectors in Congress.

Satur Ocampo, Bayan Muna president, said his group would formally ask the Comelec on Tuesday to revoke the accreditation of the groups in question, many of which are identified with deposed President Joseph Estrada or with big political parties.

"These dubious party-list groups were drafted by the Estrada camp as part of their efforts to dominate Congress and restore an Estrada-like rule," Ocampo said.

He said Bayan Muna would also ask the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines to extend its campaign against pro-Estrada candidates to party-list groups identified with the discredited leader.

Genuine party-list groups seeking representation in the May 14 elections indeed have cause for alarm, to go by the results of the latest Pulse Asia survey conducted on March 8 to 21.

The survey showed that of the so-called "genuine" party-list groups, only Bayan Muna, Akbayan and Sanlakas have managed to rack up voter preference of over 1 percent.

The left-leaning Bayan Muna topped the survey with 4.3 percent voting preference. Akbayan was No. 2 with 2.7 percent, and Sanlakas was No. 12 with 1.0 percent.

The survey was conducted among 1,200 respondents, representing about 88 percent of the voting population.

Apo Service, the party-list group of the collegiate fraternity Alpha Phi Omega and AKO, tied with Akbayan at No. 3 with 2.6 percent, followed closely by the controversial Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD), represented by movie star Richard Gomez, with 2.4 percent, and People Power Party, with 1.9 percent.

Among the political parties that obtained over .05 percent voting preference were Sen. Aquilino Pimentel's Partido ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban); S Raul Roco's Aksyon Demokratiko; Estrada's P tido ng Maralitang Pilipino; former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara's LDP; and Lito Osmena's Promdi.

Fortaleza assailed the so-called traditional politicians who, he said, were are hell-bent on using the party-list system to enter Congress through the back door.

He said marginalized sectors should not be blamed if they lose faith in parliamentary politics and resort to non-peaceful means to work for their interests.

PCGG to file more evidence vs Danding

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government claims to have "voluminous" evidence to prove that businessman and Marcos associate Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco had used the disputed coconut levy funds to set up the United Coconut Planters Bank.

The PCGG filed last Friday a motion to present the additional evidence before the Sandiganbayan, the anti-graft court that has been hearing Civil Case No. 0033-A against Cojuangco on the UCPB issue for almost 15 years now.

Acting PCGG chair Jorge Sarmiento said the commission and the Office of the Solicitor General had uncovered 27 boxes of documents at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas pertaining to Cojuangco's allegedly illegal use of the levy funds, which the government considers public.

Sarmiento said the documents would be presented to the Sandiganbayan, most probably in June, after law student volunteers finish sorting out the papers.

He said the PCGG and the OSG would "be ready this time," vowing that the government lawyers would no longer find themselves being reprimanded by the court for failing to produce evidence.

The volunteers are part of an undertaking called "Project Noah," announced earlier by Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, for which students from various Metro Manila law schools have been enlisted to help in the classification of documents on the Marcos wealth.

About 30 volunteers have been recruited from the University of the Philippines and the Ateneo de Manila University, but the OSG could use more.

The volunteers have been assigned to catalogue the documents contained in the 27 boxes kept in two BSP vaults, and make a summary of the pleadings for the government lawyers to study.

"It's a tedious task, but somebody has to do the dirty job," Marcelo said.

He said the new evidence "mysteriously re-appeared" after having been overlooked for almost a decade and lost because of the transfer of custody from one administration to another.

The new evidence will be submitted by the OSG, Commission on Audit, Bureau of Internal Revenue and representatives of various coconut farmer organizations claiming ownership of the levy funds.

The levy was a forced tax collected from coconut farmers under a decree issued by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who appointed Cojuangco as administrator of the levy.

The PCGG has accused Cojuangco of using the funds to buy 72.2 percent of the outstanding capital stock of the First United Bank, which later became the UCPB.

The PCGG and OSG are set to appear for the oral arguments on the UCPB case next week.

The government is also seeking the ouster of the UCPB directors appointed by deposed President Joseph Estrada, who is known to be close to Cojuangco.

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Sayyaf hostage's mother returns to US

THE MOTHER of the Abu Sayyaf's American hostage Jeffrey Schilling yesterday returned to the United States expressing gratitude that her son was spared but conceding that she could not affect Philippine policy.

"I am grateful for the compassion and mercy shown by Abu Sabaya," Carol Schilling said in a statement released after her departure, referring to the extremist leader who had threatened to behead her son.

"I can't control what governments do. I'm not a political person. All I want is to get my only child back safely," said the mother, who had tried in vain to meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo to plead that she open talks for Jeffrey's release. *AFP*

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Acid - Plug-in effects for Music and Sound Production
Vegas Pro 1.0 - Digital Audio Production techniques & programming
SoundForge 4.5 - Basic Sound editing, recording and production
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Schedule of Classes

April 23- Apr 28	8:00-11:00 AM Adobe Photoshop 5.5	PhP 4,000.00
	8:00-11:00 AM SoundForge	PhP 6,000.00
	11:30-2:30 PM Adobe Photoshop 5.5	PhP 4,000.00
	2:45-5:45 PM Adobe Photoshop 5.5	PhP 4,000.00
	6:00-9:00 PM Adobe Photoshop 5.5	PhP 4,000.00
April 23-May 7	2:45-5:45 PM 3D Computer Modeling & Animation	PhP 9,000.00
	6:00-9:00 PM 3D Computer Modeling & Animation	PhP 9,000.00
April 30-May 7	8:00-11:00 AM Macromedia Flash	PhP 4,500.00
	8:00-11:00 AM Acid	PhP 5,500.00
	9:00-12:00 AM Adobe Illustrator	PhP 4,500.00
	11:30-2:30 PM Macromedia Flash	PhP 4,500.00
	11:30-2:30 PM Adobe Premiere 5.0	PhP 4,500.00
	2:45-5:45 PM Macromedia Flash	PhP 4,500.00
	5:00 - 8:00 PM Adobe Illustrator	PhP 4,500.00
	6:00-9:00 PM Macromedia Flash	PhP 4,500.00
	6:00-9:00 PM CorelDRAW	PhP 4,500.00
May 8- May 19	8:00-11:00 AM Macromedia Dreamweaver	PhP 5,500.00
	8:00-11:00 AM Vegas Pro	PhP 6,000.00
	11:30-2:30 PM Macromedia Dreamweaver	PhP 5,500.00
	11:30 - 2:30PM Adobe After Effects 4.0	PhP 5,500.00
	2:45-5:45 PM Macromedia Dreamweaver	PhP 5,500.00
	5:00-8:00 PM Adobe After Effects 4.0	PhP 5;500.00
	6:00-9:00 PM Macromedia Dreamweaver	PhP 5,500.00
	2:45-5:45 PM 3D Max Character Animation	PhP 9,500.00
	6:00-9:00 PM 3D Max Character Animation	PhP 9,500.00
	6:00-9:00 PM Macromedia Dreamweaver	PhP 5,500.00
	6:00-9:00 PM Adobe PageMaker 6.5	PhP 5,500.00
May 21-26, 2001	9:00 - 12:00AM Java Script	PhP4,500.00
	6:00 - 9:00 PM Java Script	PhP4,500.00
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Gloria: I never offered Erap a deal

(From page A1)

tax kickbacks.

"Let me say that . . . yes, (Manny) Zamora invited me to talk about it, but that account of Estrada is totally inaccurate because I never offered dropping any cases," she said.

She said the meeting took place before the full extent of his alleged corruption was revealed, in the early days of the corruption scandal when "all this plunder evidence was not yet there."

She said that during her conversation with Zamora, she asked him to tell Estrada to answer accusations that he had enriched himself through his office, and that, if the charges were true, he "should surrender (the stolen wealth) to the Philippine government."

"And then as far as the charges are concerned, then let him face them, after all, he has very good lawyers," she said she told Zamora.

According to the President, the meeting took place around the time that other groups were also holding talks with representatives of the Estrada administration.

She recalled that the INQUIRER even came out with a story at the time about "failed talks" between former Trade Secretary Jose T. Pardo, representing Estrada, and former Health Secretary Alfredo Bengzon and Msgr. Soc Villegas, representing former President Corazon Aquino.

Ms Macapagal said it was a time "when all of these parties were looking for ways to end the political crisis in a way that would . . . minimize the damage to our political and economic lives, and this is all in that context."

She said Estrada should concentrate on legal moves to defend himself before the Sandiganbayan, where eight corruption cases have been filed against him.

"He should move on to defend himself before the Sandiganbayan," she said.

Tito doesn't know

Vice President Teofisto Guingona said he knew nothing of any offers having been made by the Macapagal administration, but added that even if they had, they would "not count because (those) would still be subject to a lot of negotiations."

"I don't know (about the meetings), but those were probably a series of negotiations," Guingona told a press conference yesterday morning.

Senatorial candidate Franklin Drilon said it made no sense that Ms Macapagal and later, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, would have offered Estrada deals.

"That doesn't make sense to me. Why should that offer be made at all considering the events (that forced him to leave Malacañang)?" asked Drilon, one of the 10 senators who became instant heroes when they voted to open a vital document in Estrada's aborted impeachment trial.

Drilon, a former justice secretary, said Estrada's claims were "just part of the legal maneuvers" of the opposition.

Estrada had said that Perez had offered him a deal allowing him to leave the country if he resigned. The offer was made, Estrada said, 10 days after Ms Macapagal was sworn into office.

The former President made the remark to show that the Macapagal administration did not believe that he had actually resigned.

Joker: No death for Erap

Senatorial candidate Joker Arroyo, the "lion" of the prosecution panel in Estrada's aborted impeachment trial, wants the indicted former President to have a fair, credible and impartial trial before the Sandiganbayan.

He said there should be no repeat of the trial.

"I would hope, demand and expect a fair, credible and impartial trial. He should be given a trial that he did not give in the impeachment. We should not have a repeat of the 11 senators banding together to bring about a miscarriage of justice," Arroyo said in a People Power Coalition rally in Calauag, Quezon, on Friday.

He also does not want Estrada to be meted out the harshest penalty for plunder cases, which is death. Plunder, which is an illegal accumulation of wealth of more than P50 million, is a capital offense.

"I would hope that the verdict on Estrada, in any of the cases, if it is one of conviction, would be short of the penalty of death," Arroyo said in a telephone interview yesterday.

He explained that he never believed in imposing capital punishment on convicts of heinous crimes.

Wishful thinking

Guingona downplayed warnings of civil unrest from the disgraced President's camp in the event of Estrada's arrest.

"I think due process has been observed. (If not), what are his lawyers doing? He has competent lawyers," he said.

Instead of destabilizing the Macapagal administration, Guingona said Estrada's arrest would "remind people of the issues and the lessons that we fought for during People Power II."

Administration candidate Francis Pangilinan said it was mere "wishful thinking" on the part of the opposition to warn of chaos should Estrada be jailed.

"I don't believe there will be chaos or uprising. I think the other side is just trying to put fear in the minds of our people," agreed Rep. Wigberto Tañada, another senatorial candidate.

Guingona said that the Sandiganbayan hearings should be televised "like the impeachment trial."

"So we will hear again words like 'immaterial' or 'irrelevant.' I think it should be televised because the advantages to be gained are better than the disadvantages," he said.

"I wish I could be a participant. Any lawyer would love to participate in a trial like this," Guingona added.

With a report from Michael Lim Ubac; AFP

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Police to give temporary security to NDF panel

By Carlito Pablo

THE PHILIPPINE National Police will provide temporary security to the members of the peace panel of the underground National Democratic Front who are expected to arrive in Manila tonight.

Panel members led by NDF chief negotiator Luis Jalandoni are scheduled to fly in at about 8 p.m. They are to take part in a dry run of the formal resumption of peace talks with the government later this month.

Silvestre Bello III, chair of the government negotiating panel, said the security arrangements he had worked out with PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza would be in effect until he issues safe-conduct passes to the NDF panel and its personnel.

"We are meeting with the NDF panel on Tuesday to discuss this matter," Bello said in a phone interview.

Jalandoni and wife Coni Ledesma are expected to arrive tonight along with Antonio Zumel and wife Ruth.

Both Jalandoni and Zumel were members of the NDF panel that engaged in peace negotiations with the Aquino administration between 1986 and 1987.

Also a member of that panel was Satur Ocampo, now one of three nominees of the party-list group Bayan Muna that is participating in the May 14 elections.

Eduardo Ermita, President Macapagal-Arroyo's adviser on the peace process, said that with the reinstatement of the Joint Agreement on Security and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig), the NDF had the right to provide its own security force.

He said the NDF previously had a list of 85 persons including negotiators, staff and security.

The two panels will participate in a conference set on April 18, where they will present, among others, their agenda for social and economic reforms.

The government and the NDF had earlier agreed to formally resume talks on April 27 in a Scandinavian venue, possibly Oslo in Norway.

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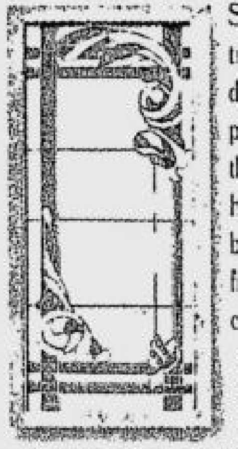

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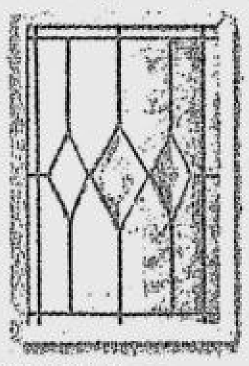

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March 26: 85TZ
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March 27: 95TX
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March 28: 23NL
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March 29: 86TX
BUTI NA LANG, MASAYA MAG-COKE!
March 30: 47XQ
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March 31: 32LX
BUTI NA LANG, MASARAP MAG-COKE!

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OPINION

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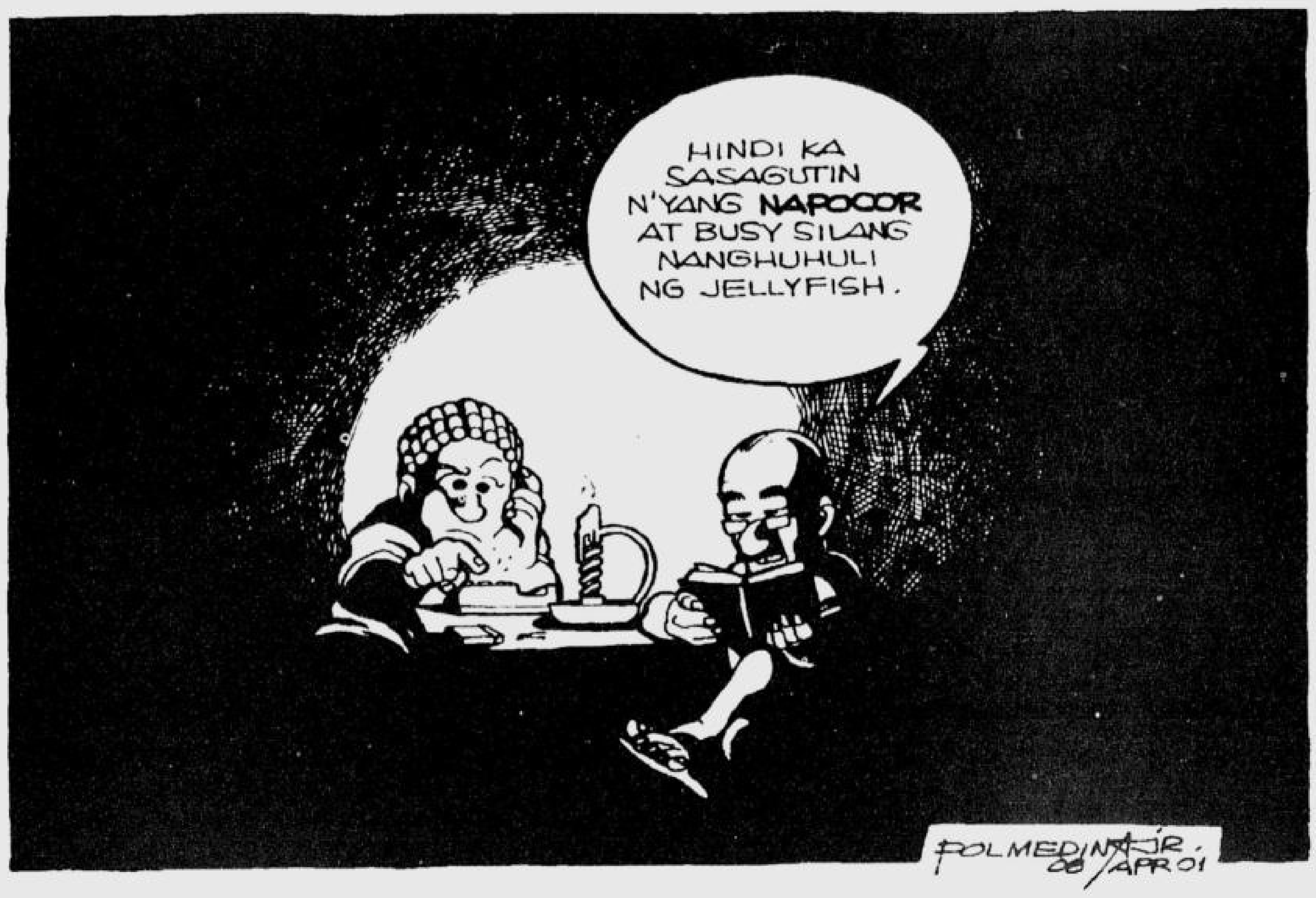
HINDI KA SASAGUTIN N'YANG NAPOCOR AT BUSY SILANG NANGHUHULI NG JELLYFISH.
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EDITORIALS

Mark's roar

MARK Welson Chua, the 19-year-old University of Santo Tomas student who was killed after exposing scams in the school's Reserved Officer Training Corps (ROTC), typifies the ordinary metropolitan student's life today. Reared by a protective family and mentored by equally protective and zealous Dominican educators, he seemed set on the usual path for young men like him: a prize engineering diploma, a career and a family. But dark elements spoiled the day for him.

In some cases, the dark elements may come from institutions that are mandated to protect the people. Many campuses are literally under siege by criminal syndicates enjoying police or military protection and even sponsorship. In Chua's case, students are preyed upon by institutions like the ROTC, which ironically has been mandated to mold male students in the finest spirit of soldiering so that they can form a reserve army on the beck and call of the motherland.

Now any Filipino male who has been in college know of the petty corruption that has been going on in the ROTC since time immemorial—the extortion and the outright commerce in grades. The UST's school paper, The Varsitarian, had long wanted to investigate the extent of the corruption in the ROTC of the University Belt, but had been stumped by the lack of documented formal cases to back its hypothesis.

Until Mark Chua came along. A cadet officer of the school's ROTC, he and another Engineering student led a number of students in filing a complaint of extortion and corruption against the ROTC brass with the Department of National Defense (the ROTC is under the military, not the school). Their complaint became the basis of a controversial special report by The Varsitarian. As a result, the entire ROTC top brass of the UST under Maj. Demy Tejares, a PMA graduate, was relieved.

It didn't stop there, however. On March 15, Mark disappeared and failed to join a special family dinner. That night, his dad received a call from his supposed kidnappers who demanded P3 million. When the callers called again, Mr. Chua said he was still raising the ransom. That was the last time he heard from the kidnappers. Two days later, Mark's body was hauled out of the Pasig River. His hands and feet were bound, his face was wrapped in industrial packaging tape, like an Egyptian mummy's.

The manner of his death was telling. Named after the gospel writer who is always represented in Christian iconography as a lion, Mark was the student who fiercely roared against corruption in the ROTC. His abductors effectively gagged his roaring by industrial packaging tape, a smothering, and a drowning.

What will happen to the truth now? Clearly the evidence points to the ROTC exposé as the cause of the killing. The Varsitarian has in its vault a tape of one of those relieved, Sgt. Genesis Binagatan, administrative officer of the ROTC of the UST, uttering threatening remarks against Chua during an interview with the paper.

The authorities have a handful of circumstantial and direct evidence to build a strong case. What are they doing? We don't know, but disappointment and frustration are building up among Mark's family, his friends and the Dominican leadership of the UST. They reflect the national malaise about the police and the military, deeply flawed institutions trying to rise above suspicion.

Reform the ROTC

TRULY, this is the right time to rethink the ROTC. While there may be no argument against the wisdom of building a reserve army among young males, there must be something wrong with the way the DND and the Armed Forces have been handling the course through the years that have abetted corruption and malpractice in the ranks.

Part of the problem is the inordinate amount of time and resources a male student spends to fulfill his ROTC requirements. He is made to undergo four semesters or two years of drilling and migraine-inducing boredom under the sun to satisfy the petty military potentates whose idea of military training is posing à la Patton while their subordinates mulct the cadets under their noses or perhaps under their subtle bidding.

And what has two years (or practically half of one's college life) produced? An army of reservists who will be the first to admit they would not be able to look the enemy in the eye. At the least, the ROTC has not produced effective instructional materials and methods to educate and train cadets properly. Even as an academic exercise, the ROTC is a failure.

Now is the right time as any to reform the ROTC and introduce alternatives. Failure to do so will result in more unfortunate episodes like the one in the UST that does the military a disservice. At the least, the government and the military owe it to Mark Welson Chua and the wonderful example of his courage to reform the ROTC.

It's a crazy country

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IT'S really a crazy country.

A convicted murderer is pardoned, then the pardon is recalled. Back in prison, he easily escapes, later apologizing to his guards. Now he's making demands upon the government as if he were the Abu Sayyaf.

The Muslim dissidents have agreed to peace talks again, but not in our own country. Our negotiators have accepted Kuala Lumpur as the "neutral" venue, where everything is Muslim, including its government.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has yielded to the demand of the National Democratic Front to hold their parley in foreign territory, as if they were sovereign equals. Now we'll have to spend scads of US dollars on this "diplomatic" junket to far-off Norway for our Oslo Conference.

A senatorial candidate with a baritone voice is topping the surveys. By contrast, a known nationalist with an impressive legislative record is hardly making it to the winning list. The *masa* cannot distinguish between the idiot board and the Constitution.

This is probably the only country where most of the front-runners in the elections, from the national to the local, are cheap entertainers. Erap began the trend and now everybody wants to be a joke like him.

Yet, for all their supposed talents, the showbiz candidates are no match for Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta in her Dance of Joy. And she was writhing *a capella* only.

Another candidate has promised to be shot at the Luneta if her opponents win. She knows of course that the law will not allow her suicide, however justified. Not knowing this, many people are campaigning desperately for 13-0 just to see her shot.

Some new witnesses have surfaced to implicate the PAOCTF in a number of unsolved crimes. But don't hold your breath. They will go all the way of brave prosecution witnesses like SPO2 Eduardo de los Reyes.

Everybody hailed him as a hero when he denounced the Kuratong Baleleng killings as a rubout. The massacre had to be exposed, he said, vowing never to recant. But as suddenly as it flared, his fervor of righteousness collapsed. De los Reyes is now enjoying his safe residence in Canada, apparently at peace with his conscience.

As long as Estrada was president, investigation of the Dacer disappearance led to a predictable dead end. Now, miraculously, the new authorities have unearthed positive evidence against the culprits. They were untouchable before, like the real owner of the Boracay mansion. He too has been revealed at last, also to nobody's surprise.

The motion for reconsideration of the 13-0 decision of the Supreme Court recognizing Ms Macapagal as the new President of the Philippines has finally been denied. If Estrada files a second motion for reconsideration, he'll be like a corpse that doesn't know it's dead. Ombudsman Aniano Desierto is already preparing the wake for the dead man walking.

Erap says the polls are a referendum on his claim of legitimacy and is now campaigning hard for his vindication. It won't be long now before he'll have to do this as a non-bailable detention prisoner, care of the Sandiganbayan. Until then, he can continue to cynically poison the coming elections, warning of rebellion if he is "denied justice."

By denial of justice, he probably means his conviction. Erap has always had a distorted vision of the law he was supposed to follow. He's in deep trouble now because the path he saw was crooked.

Incidentally, Senator Santiago is also warning of civil war if her idol is arrested. If she really wants war, she should accept Winnie Monsod's challenge to a cerebral debate. We'll see then who's the real insect.

On another tack, the Commission on Elections blames the youth for failing to register on time. The fault lies with it in the first place. As an administrative body, it had the duty to inform the public of the registration deadline, which it did not. The last day came and went last year, maybe with the Comelec itself blissfully unaware.

Now it's cackling about the illegal election posters, but that's all it's doing. Protesting is not enough, of course. It should prosecute and disqualify all posters violators, regardless of their status. It should not be terrified of the big guns it will anger, like some arrogant senatorial candidates. They'll be reduced to popguns anyway once they are convicted.

The censorship of "Live Show" has also bared the rage of the local sexpots. Should this be censored too as indecent exposure? Every manner of dishabille is now in danger of being suppressed by the sanitized MTRCB as a sin against the State. Remember when a stamp issue was banned years ago for obscenity? It carried a reproduction of Botticelli's naked "Birth of Venus."

What about saffron or pink or green dyed hair on lunatics trying to outdo weird Caucasians? Since one of the high purposes of the censors is the preservation of national values, shouldn't it also snip all artificially colored hair as unbecoming the brown Filipino? The board may also consider cutting off the heads of ugly Filipinos, to improve our racial image.

If all the MTRCB will approve are the banal poor-girl-meets-rich-boy stories and the bawdy buffoonery type of show, we might as well abolish the body. Its funds could be used better for the education of our actors and directors on how to undress properly. Academic pursuits such as a course on basic English may be omitted. These are unnecessary even for membership in the Senate.

And finally, let us consider the party-list system, which allows the blind election of its candidates. If you vote for MAD (and not its anonymous candidates), you may be choosing a congressman in a straitjacket as his party label suggests. You may even be surprised you elected him.

So, what else is new?

Bloody week

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

STARTING with Palm Sunday, we begin to recall and relive the bloody suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Perhaps we can understand this supreme sacrifice of offering one's life so that others may live in the death of 1st Lt. Mary Grace Baloyo who, at the young age of 26, sacrificed her life so that more than 200 families could live in Mabalacat, Pampanga. She could have ejected, but she chose to stay with the plane so that it would not hit the residential area. She died, so that others may live. Jesus Christ died so you and I may live. That's what Holy Week is all about.

* * *

Perhaps, in time, the family of Mary Grace will find something beautiful and meaningful in her death, but what is so real now for the family is that she is gone, she is terribly missed and she won't be around to help finance her brothers' education. The first Holy Week too was not at all holy. It was a bloody week. There's nothing holy about a man who was betrayed by his closest friends. He was subjected to the most excruciating torture, and was given a slow and painful death by crucifixion. What I am saying is that the pains of the family of Mary Grace and the pains of Mama Mary were real and deep. We can offer our pity and sympathy, but we cannot really feel their pain and loss. But perhaps we can at least try, in the words of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, to give "a modest gesture of appreciation." Yes, we can never thank God enough, but we all can at least try, especially this Holy Week. So, what are you doing this Holy Week? Don't just be a spectator as the whole event unfolds before us again. Get out of your comfort zones. Feel the heat, feel the blood, the sweat and the tears.

* * *

A man shed His blood for us (Ek. 22 14-23.56). Blood flowed out of His bruised and beaten body to the last drop. Can we at least donate some of our precious blood, those which really are precious to us? It is easy to make ourselves feel good and holy by dishing out a few pesos, a little time, a little act of sacrifice, on a little charitable deed. I am sure God does not belittle these. He is an appreciative God after all. But it is wrong for us to think that we can manipulate God. We can't. By all means, let's do, let's give, especially this Holy Week, but listen to Him speaking: "My child, more than your treasures, I want your heart; more than your time, I want your whole lifetime (and eternity spent with me!); more than your sacrifices, I want your obedience; more than your charitable deeds, I want you, a grateful loving you!" I told you, we cannot manipulate God. He is asking not just a week from you. He is asking for you. *Aba, madugo ito! Kaya nga* bloody week. He is asking for a real commitment from us.

* * *

You know, the more I pray about it, the more God is asking not just a blood-letting, or blood donation. He wants blood-shedding from us as well. A change of heart, a change of lifestyle, cleansing of relationships, a paradigm-shift, a whole new way of looking at things, a real conversion, lasting and true. It all begins with a humble and contrite heart.

* * *

Picture a person so engrossed in texting and you will see the picture of many of us so engrossed in our own world, unmindful of what is happening around us, insensitive to the stirrings of the Divine. During this Holy Week, God reminds all of us again to see the "BIG PICTURE," and not just the small screen. It's time to look up and look around, and look deep within. Yes, there's a bigger world out there other than just your own world and concerns. Let us allow God to speak to us in the silence of our hearts, in the sufferings of our people and in the emptiness or dryness within. Literally, let us stop, look and listen. And listen hard, Not hardly listening.

* * *

It's Holy Week. For some, it is just a vacation week or just a PAKITA, ARTISTA or worse, a PULITIKA WEEK. How about a bloody week, a conversion week?

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, it's Holy Week once again. Help me Lord not to make it just a vacation week or a false piety week, but a real bloody week that leads to life, change and conversion. Amen.

North Korea priority: reviving shattered economy

NEWS ANALYSIS

Zeno Park

SEOUL—North Korea has made reviving its socialist economy through greater trade and foreign ties a top priority but there is a long way to reach the reforms hoped for by the West, analysts said.

Prime Minister Hong Song-Nam on Thursday presented new policy guidelines which emphasized reviving the North's moribund economy and enhancing living conditions for its famine-hit population.

The guidelines were contained in a report to the Supreme People's Assembly, the communist North's rubber stamp parliament, which held a single-day session before closing late Thursday.

"North Korea, encouraged by progress in fighting famine, expressed its strong determination to exert all its efforts to achieve economic recovery," an analyst for South Korea's unification ministry said.

Hong told the assembly that the "most urgent task" of the government was to improve the living standards of the 22 million people.

"The cabinet will bring about a radical turn in building up the economic potential of the country to meet the requirements of the new era of the army-first revolution," Hong declared before the 687-member assembly.

This year, great efforts will be directed to meet demand for consumer goods and to build more homes, upgrade power and transportation infrastructure, he said.

Hong said the North would develop "solid exports production bases" to "decisively expand the export of goods."

> Centralized mismanagement and a series of natural disasters have been blamed for several years of major food shortages

"State investment will be increased in science and technology and the exchange of science and technology with other countries and their information strengthened," the premier said.

The North also reaffirmed its stance to maintain inter-Korean rapprochement by stressing the significance of last year's inter-Korean summit talks during the parliamentary session, attended by the North's leader Kim Jong-il.

Conspicuously, it did not mention the United States, indicating that it would wait for the administration of President George W. Bush to fix its policy toward Pyongyang, the South Korean official said.

Analysts say living conditions in North Korea have improved in recent years as the autocratic Kim Jong-il gave priority to resolving the "issues of eating and clothing" and China increased aid to its neighbor.

"But perceptions concerning economic openness and reform are so different in North Korea from those in South Korea," Dong Yong-seung, head of the North Korean department of Samsung Economic Research Institute said.

"The North seeks to make up for the shortcomings of its planned, socialist economy (by enlisting outside help) while South Koreans think of moves toward a capitalist market economy," he said.

He noted that the assembly passed decrees on processing trade and copyright.

"This means that North Korea will continue focusing on processing trade to make use of its abundant labor instead of relying on foreign investment and technique," he said.

North Korea's economy has collapsed in the decade since the fall of the Soviet bloc. Centralized mismanagement and a series of natural disasters have been blamed for several years of major food shortages, which have led to the deaths of more than a million people.

But there had been speculation that the North would move to reform its economy, since Kim Jong-il visited China in January to study the results of its two decades of economic reforms launched by former paramount leader Deng Xiaoping.

AFP

Woman-talk

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"WHAT do you women talk about when you get together?" More than one exasperated husband has asked this question of his wife, as she set off for a girls' night out, a reunion, a shower, a mahjong *"konsiyerto,"* a consciousness-raising session, a workshop or a conference. Well, men might be interested to hear an account from out of Butuan where I've been the past week.

During one gender consciousness workshop, reported Edna Hontiveros, chair of the Abanse! Pinay Butuan chapter and head of Forward-Pilipina, a women's NGO, the women got to talking about their sex lives. One participant, the wife of a farmer, confessed plaintively that even after seven children, "not once have I been brought to the height of excitement." In other words, she still didn't know what it felt like to have an orgasm.

The remark set off a flurry of heated discussion, but in the end everyone agreed that it could simply be "a matter of using the right position." "Why don't you try being the one on top for a change?" the other women advised the unhappy housewife.

True enough, the next time wife got together with husband, she suggested being the one on top, a shift in their usual arrangement that brought her to the heights of pleasure that she had craved. "Wait a minute," said the husband. "Where on earth did you learn this position?" "I learned it in my women's workshop," she replied. "Is that so?" he asked. "When is your next meeting?" "Why?," the wife asked, fearing he would forbid her from taking part ever again in such a meeting. "Well, the next time you meet, why don't you ask them if there are other positions?"

* * *

THE ANECDOTE usually raises gales of laughter, but it only goes to show that when it comes to women getting together and talking about their lives, there are no holds barred, no aspect of life too private to be beyond scrutiny.

This also shows that women's "empowerment" goes far beyond legal rights, income-generating activities, or even consciousness-raising. If being empowered means having the ability to make decisions and take action, it begins with recognizing one's importance, acknowledging that one's needs, even sexual needs, are legitimate and should be addressed.

And when women are empowered, there is no telling where they will stop, and what they will not be able to achieve.

Interesting, though that at the recent Caraga Regional Gender Summit, the theme was "Men's Role in Gender and Development." Has gender mainstreaming been so successful that men are now the "problem"?

Sponsored by the Local Government Support Program (LGSP) of the Canadian International Development Agency (Cida), the Gender Summit gathered a good number of women and men gender advocates among the various government agencies and local governments in Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur. I must acknowledge meeting at the Butuan affair Reynaldo C. Navacilla, the LGSP regional project manager.

Many thanks to my hosts, especially the officers of the Caraga GAD Advocates Inc., who organized the Gender Summit, headed by Muriel Sadaba. The next day, the Gender and Development Coordinating Council of the Regional Development Council hosted another gathering attended by women and men from government agencies, NGOs and people's organizations. Co-chairs of the RDC-GDCC are Edna Hontiveros and Cita Cochingco, Neda regional director. The GAD Focal Point is Gloria Pabillore, the provincial social welfare officer of Agusan del Norte.

* * *

POLITICAL equations in the Caraga region are quite interesting. In Agusan del Norte, the post of governor is a toss-up between two young women. The incumbent governor is Angel Amante, now running for her third term. Angel, of whom I had written previously, is working harder than ever on this her third campaign, though this time around, she has come to a happy and tranquil place in her life, what with nuptials just around the corner, "win or lose."

Angel's closest opponent is Shella Libarios, the young wife of incumbent Rep. Roan Libarios, who came to national attention in his role as prosecutor in the impeachment trial. Libarios is up against Edelmiro Amante, Angel's father, and a former congressman and executive secretary to FVR. The Amantes and Libarioses both belong to administration parties, which is why the province has been declared an "open" territory.

In the first district, the post of district representative is being contested by the incumbent, Rep. Leovegildo Banaag (LDP) and Charito "Ching" Plaza, a three-term congresswoman, national security expert and a formidable campaigner. Meeting at the airport, we were regaled by her youngest son belting out his version of "Heal our Land," which he sings at all of Ching's rallies.

Contesting the mayoralty of Butuan are Daisy Plaza, wife of incumbent and third-termer Mayor Democrito "Boy Dako" Plaza II, nephew-in-law of Ching, and Nonoñg Balamo.

* * *

IN AGUSAN del Sur, the field is wide open since incumbent Gov. Valentina Plaza, widow of Agusan's "grand old man" of politics, is finishing her third and last term. Contesting her post are her son, Adolph Plaza (LDP) and Reynaldo Quijado, the Lakas candidate.

With incumbent Congressman Bascug bowing out of the congressional race, the post of congressman of Agusan del Sur is a contest between Rodolfo "Ompong" Plaza, brother of Butuan Mayor "Boy Dako," and Ceferino Paredes Jr., the former congressman.

No wonder a sardonic saying in the Agusan provinces is that the people there are so lucky "because you have so many plazas to choose from."

Other women candidates I met in the course of my Butuan visit were Edna A. Perang, Virgie Timosa and Dardanella Calang, all running for councilor in Sibagat, as well as Vicky Alli, running for councilor in Cabadbaran.

* * *

For comments, etc., e-mail me at rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

Can we send an ex-president to jail?

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

EVERYTHING we know about the way our institutions work points to the near impossibility of doing that. It is true that we can summon enough political will to depose a sitting president by peaceful extra-constitutional means. And we have proven this not once but twice. Yet nothing in our experience gives us reason to hope that we can ever punish the powerful who are corrupt by simply allowing existing judicial processes to take their course.

The principal obstacle to truth and justice in the prosecution of the powerful does not come from their mass supporters but from their well-paid elite lawyers who specialize in finding loopholes by which to delay the proceedings and exhaust the patience of judges and prosecutors. Cases fail to take off for a variety of reasons. With time, the public mood changes, the sense of urgency that attended the filing of the case dissipates, documents are lost or corrupted, witnesses vanish without a trace and the memory of the crime fades. Soon the cry for justice is replaced by a call for healing.

That was what happened to the cases against the Marcoses and their cronies. More than 30 cases were filed against them at the Sandiganbayan in 1986. None of these prospered far enough to send anyone to jail. In contrast, all the human rights cases brought against Marcos before US courts were resolved with dispatch in favor of the complainants.

We failed to indict Marcos before a Filipino court because he had fled abroad and the shaky government of President Aquino was afraid to bring him back to face trial. But even after Marcos' death, our prosecutors could not mount a sustained effort to prove the cases against the Marcoses and their cronies. The government kept changing its lawyers, while the Marcos family retained only one, Estelito Mendoza, who knew the cases like the back of his hand. In the meantime, the official attitude toward the Marcos hidden wealth shifted from outright confiscation to a negotiated sharing with the Marcos heirs. In such a climate, the question of guilt became irrelevant.

Today justice remains as elusive in the cases against the deposed president, Joseph Ejercito Estrada. In the aborted impeachment trial of Estrada we saw a preview of what lawyers can do with "technicalities." Through endless debate, they can prevent any case from advancing. But we also saw what the wisdom and tenacity of a presiding judge can do to ensure a fair and orderly trial. An intelligent and confident judge like Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. can patiently follow all the basic points before they are completely lost in the tedious exchange of arguments, and rule on every issue without equivocation. The public would not have seen any of this if the broadcast media were not allowed full access to the proceedings. People Power II would have been impossible if the public had not been given a chance to form its own judgment of what was right, what was fair and what was reasonable.

It is not the specter of Erap supporters going on a rampage to prevent the arrest of their idol that haunts our nation at present. It is the corrosive effect of delay, institutional inertia and official vacillation that does. The loyalists will always be there, taunting the police to take them seriously, but their numbers will never be huge enough to divide the country. We saw this during Marcos' time; they will be resurrected in Erap's time. But now that Erap is no longer president, it is doubtful if Brother Mike Velarde's El Shaddai flock or Bishop Erano Manalo's Iglesia ni Cristo followers can ever be mobilized, as they were last year, to serve as people power props for Erap.

What about the military? A recalcitrant military added to the nation's problems after the ouster of Marcos. The Aquino administration could not move with any decisiveness on any major issue for fear of provoking another coup. Today the situation in the military is far more reassuring, thanks to the professionalism of its top leadership. At the height of the impeachment crisis, Gen. Ping Lacson would have been the only one who had the motive and the capability to mount a military action to save Erap or to replace him. But he too is now fighting for his own survival. If he wins as senator in the coming May elections, he may be Erap's presidential candidate for 2004.

Nothing can bring Estrada closer to jail and affirm the correctness of People Power II more than a determined and transparent effort to prove the cases against him in court. The trial must be continuous and must allow full coverage by the mass media. The pleasure of seeing him arrested must neither dictate the pace of the proceedings nor should it be subsumed under the pragmatic necessities of an electoral campaign. The Sandiganbayan must perform its work fairly and efficiently, and in full view of a vigilant public. The media must do their work and enrich the public's understanding of the crimes for which an ex-president is being tried.

If we fail once more to agree on what is true and to make justice work, we should in the future not expect to send any person to jail for corruption. We are a demoralized and cynical people. We have learned to live tentatively with flawed institutions. Only the political courage of generations has saved us from our dysfunctional institutions. Let that courage shine through once more in the trial of a corrupt and morally unfit leader.

* * *

Comments are welcome at rdavid@pacific.net.ph

Encounters

HIGH BLOOD

Julia L. Palarca

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

I WAS reluctant at first to accept the invitation to our grand class reunion. For one thing, I was completely comfortable with the outings of our gang of nine (five females and four males) held occasionally to celebrate birthdays, and when we welcome and send off any of us who traveled. During those times, we metamorphosed from sedate, harried housewives and husbands into a raucous irresponsible bunch returning home not quite sober.

But this was different. Couched in impeccable English and so correct, I could not help a derisive hoot. Still, I was curious. The gathering place was the penthouse of a 17-story building owned by the outgoing president. I had always regarded these pretentious aeries with amusement. To me, they were intended for bored bachelors, unabashed mistresses, assorted businessmen-types who smoked extremely expensive cigars and sipped liquor so costly they made your senses reel.

The first person I met in the elevator was Tony whom I remembered as a voluble, ebullient fellow who never seemed to grow old.

"Hi," I exclaimed in unfeigned sincerity. "You are ageless!"

He turned quickly at my greeting, and let out a delighted whoop as he shook my hand.

"Hi, yourself!" he retorted grinning. "It's been so long since i last saw you."

I started to tell him that I lived abroad now and had therefore been unable to attend previous reunions. But we were quickly carried away from each other by the eddy of guests getting out of the elevator. There were yells of recognition and shouted welcomes everywhere. I quickly spotted my old classmates—Jorge and his wife, Fe; Tito and Sophie; Teddy the perennial bachelor; Fred and Elsa. I thought with a pang that our crowd kept contracting each time we met. Other classmates called out boisterously from across the room but I stayed with these people whom I once knew quite well and with whom I had formed some kind of friendship through the years. I don't think we were quite successful in concealing our startled reactions to the changes in our looks. The sagging frames, the balding heads, the grayness of everything. Still, one could not miss the happy voices which had remained strongly young. Hardly a quaver could be detected, certainly our dreams had remained golden.

"And what have you been doing?" I asked Jorge.

"Why, should I be doing anything?" he countered archly.

Jorge used to be the best writer in our class. I recalled that soon after graduation, he had joined a public relations firm and not before too long, had climbed near the top. Later he joined a glossy weekly as its editor. Jorge was supposed to read the invocation before the election of officers. When I asked to read his piece prior to its delivery, he sheepishly confessed that it was his daughter, not he, who wrote it.

"I can't write anymore," he said. "Either I am tired or just lazy."

His reading was lifeless, stripped of the verve I once admired. It was Fred who reminded me that Jorge was scheduled to undergo a heart bypass in a couple of weeks. Afterwards, Jorge walked toward his table leaning heavily on his cane. I never saw him again.

There was a great deal of small inconsequential talk. One recounted how he fell from a two-foot high bed and now could walk only with a pronounced limp. Another querulously protested the high cholesterol content of the food being served us. Asparagus spears were poison to his system. His neighbor asked if he had ever heard of Lipitor which cut down cholesterol by as much as 30 percent. At all events, Teddy advised him dryly to change his doctor. We all laughed. Did anyone know that the dolt in our class was now a real estate developer? He sold condos from P4 million up only.

It was easy to slide back into the past, brushing the years aside like so many cobwebs. Conversation flowed effortlessly, uniting us briefly. We did not wait for answers to questions tossed to nobody in particular—there was too little time, too many people, too wide the spaces dividing us. For the time being we were tenuously bound together by remembrances we could not yet set entirely free.

Then I looked around and with a lurch in my heart saw him. He was seated at the table right next to ours. I was moved by the tired worn droop of his shoulders as he sat listening to Connie, the former class secretary. He once walked so tall I had to look up to talk to him. He was attentive as ever, smiling with gentle courtesy that always endeared him to women.

I turned to Teddy and said, "Do you see what I see?"

He smirked and commented: "It is all over your face." The entire class had known of our love affair and a lot of teasing had been bandied about all the time it had lasted.

I playfully hit Teddy on the arm and continued talking to him as if nothing had happened. Yet from then on I instantly lost direction. I did not look his way again but his presence was all over the room. This is ridiculous, I thought. After all these years. I had convinced myself that the pain had abated, the edge of sadness dulled. We had each taken different paths and had become whole again. But right then and there was the sudden need to glow, to look uncaring and therefore desirable.

When lunch was over, he came straight toward me. I heard his greeting before I faced him. He stood before me looking old and spent. I blurted out thoughtlessly: "Why do you look so pale?" Across the years of silence he merely looked at me helplessly and did not reply. I failed to realize that I had spoken loud enough to be perceived by the other guests and so, had embarrassed him.

With a casualness I did not feel, I turned away to rejoin the others. Teddy drew me aside and hissed: "How inconsiderate can you get?" Did I know, asked Teddy, that "your boyfriend" had brought along a male servant on whom he leaned for support but that he had gotten rid of the fellow when he saw you?

He startled me once more as I waited for my ride home. He had apparently stood behind me unseen, waiting to be recognized. When I did notice him, a wave of desolation swept over me as he smiled in the familiar way I knew.

"Do you still live in the same place?" he asked inanely.

His question suddenly sharpened the distance between our private worlds in which neither one or the other either touched or loved any longer.

"No," I replied. "We live in QC now."

And then I impulsively laid an arm on his shoulder in a gesture of farewell.

"So long!" I said. "Be seeing you!" I said as my car drove up.

When I read his obituary in the INQUIRER months later, I could not stem the quiet flow of tears. And a line written by someone I could not recall, leapt into my consciousness: "Death is only a sadness. Tragedy lies in the waste."

Julia L. Palarca used to write many years ago but abandoned the craft for less exacting duties.

THEY SAID

Campaign issue

"The issue in this campaign is simple: Do they want a government like Estrada's? If they want Estrada's leadership style, then they should support his candidates. But if they want good governance, please support our ticket."

—People Power Coalition senatorial candidate Solita Monsod

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Comments can be sent to votersvoice@inquirer.com.ph
JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR., Editor

Voter's Voice ELEKSYON 2001

How senatorial candidates stand on family planning

BEYOND motherhood statements about serving the people, what positions do senatorial candidates take on specific issues? The INQUIRER is publishing their stand on the proposal to lift the bank secrecy law to counter money laundering, on tuition increases and on family planning.

They were also asked about the Marcos ill-gotten wealth, gun control, proposals to legalize *jueteng* and prostitution, and the lifting of the 40 percent ceiling on foreign investments in public utilities.

Voter's Voice will publish the corresponding positions of the candidates on these and other citizens' concerns in the succeeding issues.

This section had earlier published the stand of senatorial candidates on ousted President Joseph Estrada, full disclosure of campaign finances, labeling of genetically modified organisms in food and cross-gender dressing in government offices.

These were among the concerns that various sectors had raised in the INQUIRER focus group discussions and in interviews.

Senatorial Candidates (Interviews by Juliet Javellana, Christine Avendaño, Dona Pazzibugan, Volt Contreras and Gerald Lacuarta)	Lifting of Bank Secrecy Law	Cap on tuition increase	Artificial family planning methods
Adaza, Homobono (Independent)	As a countermeasure to money laundering, yes. But there should be safety measures to prevent it from being abused.	For private schools yes, and for public schools there should be free education from elementary to university level. This is done in other countries anyway.	For me, it should be the natural method. We should conduct seminars on responsible parenthood and on natural methods of birth control.
Angara, Edgardo (LDP, Pwersa ng Masa)	No response.	No response.	No response.
Arroyo, Joker (Ind., People Power Coalition)	Yes, in respect to public officials only. It will be my first bill when I'm elected.	No. Let's examine the way state colleges and universities are funded and redirect some of the funds to the private sector, which carries the burden of higher education.	No, no, no. I'm against any kind of artificial methods.
* **Canoy**, Reuben (LDP, Pwersa)	No, because the banking sector will suffer. No one will deposit anymore.	Yes. Education should be made available to all.	Yes. Our problem right now is population. A runaway population will be difficult for the economy. Natural family planning methods are not reliable.
Chato, Liwayway (Ind., PPC)	I agree. There's a need for transparency of deposits, particularly those of government and elected officials.	I agree because every year there's an increase in tuition and parents are reeling from the expenses.	I'm a pro-life advocate. I'm against artificial family planning methods.
De Castro, Noli (Ind., Pwersa)	No response.	No response.	No response.
Defensor Santiago, Miriam * (PRP, Pwersa)	No, because otherwise no foreign investment and certainly no bank deposits would flow into the country.	No, because the quality of education would consequently deteriorate.	Yes, because it is the most effective way to fight the sinful level of poverty. This is a matter of individual conscience.
Drilon, Franklin (Ind., PPC)	I'm open to that under very stringent standards because it can be abused.	No, I would rather have the process of consultation strengthened and strictly enforced.	I want to give couples a free choice.
Ejercito Estrada, Luisa * (Ind., Pwersa)	Yes.	Yes. Students and parents from middle-income and lower-income families are finding it difficult to meet their needs. There must be a way to protect them from rising tuition.	I favor natural family planning. I'm against abortion. But couples have a right to know the options to family planning and upon the advice of a priest or counselor, they can decide which alternative to use.
* **Enrile**, Juan Ponce (Ind., Pwersa)	We have to study whether the exceptions to the bank secrecy law are sufficient to curb graft. Lifting it should only be a part of a series of legislation to address money laundering.	I 'm not in favor of putting a ceiling on tuition increases by private schools. But the mandated consultations with students and parents should be strictly complied with to prevent abuse.	I'm in favor of artificial family planning methods not disguised as instruments of abortion. But I'm against the government promoting artificial birth control methods.
Flavier; Juan (Lakas, PPC)	You have to be selective in doing that. You should open bank accounts if there is legal basis that the money there is illegally sourced. Depositors should be given an amount of privacy too.	This should be studied. There should be a rational basis for increases. In lieu of a cap, there should be a transparent allocation of the increases in tuition.	Teach the people both natural and artificial birth control methods so that they can have an informed choice. In the bedroom, they can choose what method to use.
Herrera, Ernesto (Lakas, PPC)	There should be a law authorizing government to look into money laundering, but a court order must be obtained to allow certain accounts to be opened.	In state colleges and universities, more scholarships should be given to poor but deserving students. For private schools, government can provide vouchers for deserving students.	I'm for family planning but not artificial methods. I believe in the Catholic teachings on this. The more children I have the better for me.
Honasan, Gregorio * (Ind., Pwersa)	It will weaken the banking industry because local and foreign depositors will most likely transfer their funds to other countries. The disadvantages outweigh the benefits.	I am against indiscriminate tuition fee increases.	Yes, I approve of artificial family planning methods for reproductive health, except abortion; all as a subsidiary of a comprehensive population policy.
* **Lacson**, Panfilo (LDP, Pwersa)	Only in cases involving individuals linked to high crimes. The Money Laundering Law is still pending in Congress. If elected, I intend to finetune this.	Yes. Education must be affordable to the poor. This is a short-term solution. For the long-term, gov't can deduct a small amount from salaries of workers for the college assurance plan of their children.	I am a Catholic but I believe we have to address this gnawing problem of population growth considering our dwindling resources.
Lozano, Oliver (KBL)	To check money laundering, yes, but to indiscriminately lift secrecy of bank deposits, no, as this would deter and diminish business activities	There must be a hearing. Increases should not be arbitrary and the CHED must approve these. Increases should be fair and reasonable.	No, I am for natural methods of birth control because of the ill effects of birth control practices like pills, IUD and injectibles.
Madrigal, "Jamby" (LDP, Pwersa)	No response.	No response.	No response.
Magsaysay, Ramon Jr. (Ind., PPC)	If we remove the bank secrecy law, the result may be worse than the occasional problems of money laundering. Repealing it may cause depositors to withdraw their money from banks.	Schools must be aware of the difficult economic situation. They can put a temporary cap on tuition increase. Otherwise, there will be a lot of dropouts.	I am a practicing Catholic and the dictum of our church is to use natural birth control methods. Self control or delayed gratification *na lang*.
* **Mercado**, Orlando (Ind., Pwersa)	Yes. As a matter of fact, the Anti-Graft Law already contains exceptions to our bank secrecy rules.	No. Instead of government regulating tuition by law, it should improve the quality of public tertiary education and increase subsidy for public educational institutions.	Yes. Access to information and quality health care services should include natural and modern methods that are safe. Men and women must take responsibility for selecting methods consistent with their cultural beliefs.
Monsod, Solita (Aksyon Demokratiko, PPC)	Absolutely in favor. I'm willing to pay the cost of lifting the veil of secrecy so people may not be able to hide the fruits of their corruption.	It's not a good idea to do that across the board. The long-term solution is for government to initiate a loan program to be repaid by students when they work.	No. I'd never used it. What I do support is the right of parents to space their children. Nobody can tell a married couple what to do.
* **Morato**, Manuel (Independent)	No. The honest depositors who compose the majority will suffer. Laundered funds can easily be detected by the banks when the depositor's name is fictitious and therefore illegal.	No. It's counter-productive. School authorities and teachers will be sadly affected. It is favorable only to parents and students. Quality comes at an equitable price.	Only the natural way is acceptable. People are one of our greatest assets. If hardships occur due to "population explosion," gov't is to blame for not knowing how to cope with people's needs.
Navarro, Rod (Independent)	Yes, I think the confidentiality is favoring those involved in graft and corruption.	Oh yes, that has been my prayer. We should be kind to people starving for education because that is the best collateral of the young ones in the future.	I cannot go against the wish of the Lord for us to "go forth and multiply." Who are we to question that authority?
Osmeña, Sergio III (PDP Laban, PPC)	There is no need for a bank secrecy law.	You can't do that in the private sector. If you put a cap, teachers' salaries won't increase and teaching quality goes down. It has to be judiciously regulated.	As a member of the Catholic Church, I have to obey what it tells its members to do. But I will not impose the same type of standards on people of other beliefs.
Pagdanganan, Roberto (Lakas, PPC)	Yes, if there's prima facie evidence of wrongdoing. Other deposits should be protected.	I agree, but it has to provide creative options like expanded scholarships and study-now-pay-later schemes.	I'm pro-life. I'm not for artificial family planning methods.
Pangilinan, Francis (Liberal Party, PPC)	I'm for amending the law in areas where illegal activities of government officials are involved.	I'm in favor of a cap in the tertiary level.	Yes. But we should respect the individual position of different religious beliefs because it's a very touchy issue.
Puno, Ricardo Jr. (LDP, Pwersa)	No response.	No response.	No response.
* **Rasul**, Santanina (Ind., Pwersa)	At present, government can and should be able to get the information it needs from any institution in pursuit of criminals involved in money laundering.	There is a process. By law, students and parents can present their case against proposed increases. What the process needs, however, is implementation.	I believe young people should be celibate for their own protection. Couples should have options to plan their families. Abortion, however, is a definite NO.
Recto, Ralph G. (Lakas, PPC)	Yes, only for money laundering purposes. Otherwise it may be used politically.	Definitely.	I would rather support safe methods. *Kung ano ang tinuturo ng simbahan mo sa 'yo, yun ang sundin mo.*
Sabio, Camilo (Independent)	I'm definitely against money laundering. But whether it is wise to sacrifice the secrecy of deposits to find a better way of achieving this objective, the Senate should conduct a public hearing.	I would be in favor of a cap on tuition increases subject to public hearings.	In general, I'm in favor of natural family planning methods with certain exceptions.
Tamano, Ombra (LDP, Pwersa)	No response.	No response.	No response.
Tañada, Wigberto (Liberal Party, PPC)	I'm in favor of amending the law so that bank accounts of public officials can be looked into during investigations of wrongdoing on their part.	Increases should not be automatic, but on a case-to-case basis and only after meaningful consultations with all stakeholders.	I would leave that up to the couple.
Villar, Manuel Jr. (Ind., PPC)	The law should be amended. Enough protection should be given to depositors. At the same time there should be provisions to prevent money laundering.	A cap should be done on a selective basis. It should be done gradually. There should be a formula for setting the cap.	I'm conservative on this issue. I support the Catholic Church's position on natural family planning methods.
Yasay, Perfecto (Independent)	I'm in favor of lifting the bank secrecy law. People who earn their money legally have nothing to hide or be secretive about their savings.	Yes. Students should always have access to affordable quality education and to put a cap on tuition increases should help us achieve that.	No one should advocate any preferred family planning method. That is a matter best left to the individual families concerned, taking into account their religious views, health, ability to raise children, etc.

* Submitted written answers

Page design and illustration by Ernie Sambo

US, China close to ending row

WASHINGTON—The United States and China edged Friday toward the endgame in the diplomatic crisis over a downed US spy plane, as first details emerged of a possible face-saving exit from the drama amid intense round-the-clock diplomacy.

President George W. Bush said talks on the issue were "making progress" while Secretary of State Colin Powell said he was "encouraged" by efforts to end a row sparked when the US plane collided with a Chinese jet fighter.

During another day of grueling diplomacy in Washington and Beijing, a senior US senator revealed that both sides were drafting a joint letter which would express a common position and bring the six-day tussle to a close.

"We're moving toward a letter that will contain exchanges of views, first at the level of the ambassador and the foreign minister, but that letter is being reviewed both by our president and the president of China, so it will reflect a common understanding," said Sen. John Warner.

He appeared to be referring to US ambassador to China, Admiral Joseph Prueher, who has been locked in exhaustive talks with senior Chinese officials.

Warner, chair of the Senate Armed Services committee, said after a briefing by state department and defense department officials that the two sides also hoped to set up a meeting of experts to probe the collision on Sunday.

"There will be established some type of meeting framework contemporaneous with the letter, and that framework will enable the experts, those who are most knowledgeable about aircraft and other matters, to sit down and assess the facts," he said.

"Now somewhere in that schedule we would hope there will be a timely return of our crewmen," he said.

Twenty-four US servicemen and women have been detained in China since their E-P3 surveillance plane made an emergency landing on China's southern Hainan island on Sunday after the collision.

Other lawmakers struck a less conciliatory note, announcing cancellation of trips they had planned to China in the month of April.

"I do not believe it would be appropriate to visit a country that is detaining American servicemen and women against their will," said Senator Olympia Snowe, part of a scrapped nine-day tour by 22 US lawmakers to Shanghai and Beijing.

China on Friday allowed US diplomats to pay a second visit to the crew at a government building in Haikou, provincial capital of Hainan island province.

Powell said the crew was in "fine shape" and that China had consented to allow regular visits by US envoys.

"They are receiving catered food from outside, so the Chinese are taking good care of our men and women," he added. *AFP*

Mideast conflict escalates

GAZA CITY—The Israeli-Palestinian conflict slid further toward all-out war Friday, with tit-for-tat actions involving helicopter gunships and mortars, as a hardline Israeli minister urged the Jewish state to strike "day and night."

Less than 10 days after the US veto of a draft UN resolution that would have dispatched an observer force to protect the Palestinians, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat asked UN chief Kofi Annan by telephone to "intervene to stop the Israeli aggression (against) the unarmed Palestinian people," a Palestinian official said.

Some 40 people were left with Israeli bullet wounds, two of them seriously injured after being hit by exploding ammunition, medical sources in the Palestinian territories said.

Earlier four mortar bombs fell on the Netzarim Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip, causing no injuries or damage but provoking Israeli tank fire in retaliation, an Israeli military source said.

A Palestinian national security position was hit by two shells and two Palestinian homes in southern Gaza City were damaged in the bombardment, but no one was hurt, a Palestinian security source said.

The Israeli Army fired an assortment of around 20 tank shells and mortar bombs, the source said.

The fighting came hours after Israeli helicopter gunships launched overnight raids on Palestinian police headquarters in the Gaza Strip following another Palestinian mortar attack Thursday.

Air raids

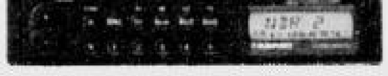
Six people, including two police officers, were injured in the air raids, the third in eight days, according to Gen. Saeb al-Ajiz, commander of Palestinian national security in the northern Gaza Strip.

"This is fresh aggression against the headquarters of the Palestinian national authority and against the Palestinian people," he said.

Late Friday, Palestinians again fired mortars, this time at the Erez crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip. Soldiers responded by firing on the area from where the shots came, military sources said.

Eight mortar bombs fired from the Gaza Strip had hit Israeli targets, including a kibbutz in Israel itself, late Thursday, in what was thought to be a reply by the radical Islamic Jihad to the killing earlier in the day of one of its militants, that was blamed on Israel.

Israel launched its overnight strikes despite rare criticism from Washington, condemning plans for new settlements in the Palestinian territories and protesting an incident in which Israeli soldiers fired on a convoy of Palestinian officials. *AFP*



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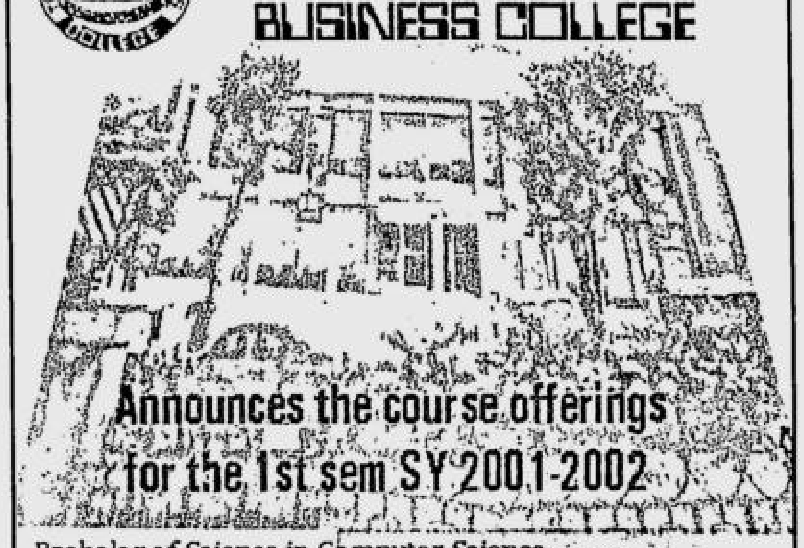

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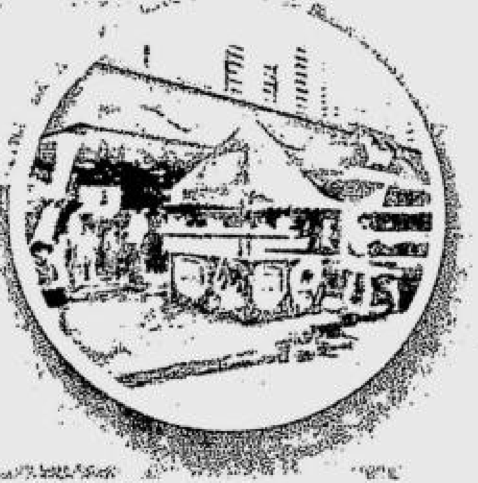
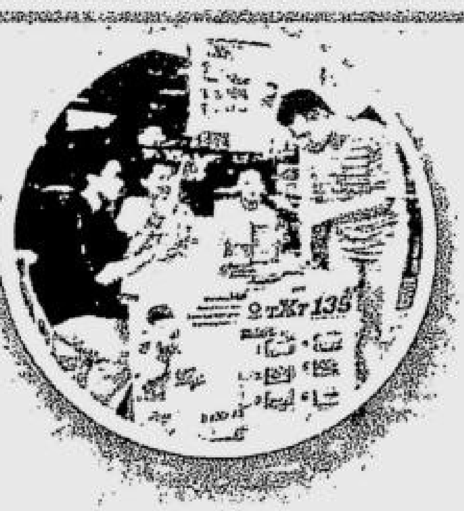
"Motorists deserve nothing less specially when it comes to their safety and convenience. That's why Caltex Philippines designed this year's Summer Samaritan Program with a more comprehensive vehicle maintenance package coupled with fast and efficient services plus a wide range of product offerings. These are available in 53 Caltex service stations from Batangas to Baguio City," said Ickhoy de Leon, Caltex Brands Manager.

CALTEX





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CALTEX FUND, which provides scholarship to street children in key cities all over the country. It also provides shelter for them through the Caltex-Tuloy House for children in Alabang. Initiated in 1999, this is a long-term program intended to give a better future to disadvantaged children in the streets.

GOOD ROOTS, a five-year agro-forestry project of Caltex Philippines which aims to preserve the environment through technology transfer to farming communities in Lobo, Batangas and Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte.

TEAM CALTEX PHILIPPINES, an amateur boxing team supported by Caltex in their travel and training for international competitions as representative of the Philippines. The team has participated in the 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok and the 2000 Olympics in Sydney and will compete in the Southeast Asian Games in Malaysia this year.

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LUZON SOUTH: South Expressway, Muntinlupa • Coastal Road, Parañaque •Nat'l. Highway, Halang, Calamba • Laguna Technopark, Sta. Rosa, Laguna • Old Nat'l. Highway, Pila, Laguna • San Rafael, San Pablo, Laguna • San Pablo City, Laguna • Batong Malaki, Los Baños, Laguna • Bo. Tubigan, Biñan, Laguna • Sta. Cruz, Laguna • Pagsanjan, Laguna • Lemery, Batangas • Balayan, Batangas • San Antonio, Santo Tomas, Batangas • Mataas na Lupa, Lipa City • San Pascual, Bauan, Batangas • Nasugbu, Batangas • Bugtong na Pulo, Lipa City • Dasmariñas, Cavite • Gov. Drive, Carmona, Cavite • Kabilang Baybay, Carmona, Cavite • Aguinaldo Highway, Imus, Cavite • Aguinaldo Highway, Bacoor, Cavite • E. Aguinaldo Highway, Dasmariñas, Cavite • Governor's Drive, Bo. Langkaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite • Governor's Drive, Batuhan, Dasmariñas, Cavite • Bgy. Lumil, Silang, Cavite

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Mori announces he will resign

TOKYO—Japan's lame-duck Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori ended a month of political confusion Friday by formally announcing he would resign, as a bid by the former premier Ryutaro Hashimoto to succeed him gained momentum.

"I have made up my mind to step down as we need to deal with mounting domestic and international tasks under a new government," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda quoted Mori as telling ministers.

Mori will remain in office until his successor is appointed which is expected to be on April 26.

One of the most unpopular prime ministers of modern times as a result of his own gaffes and scandals, Mori announced last month he would bring forward elections for the leadership of his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) from September.

But he had denied the move amounted to a de facto resignation, sparking criticism for resorting to ambiguous face-saving tactics and causing the LDP to adopt backroom politics to pick his successor.

In the end, Mori accepted he had to step down as he had come to be seen as a major electoral liability.

"As I listened to people's opinions, they said 'we won't be able to win upper house elections,'" the embattled leader was quoted by Jiji Press as telling his party peers.

The LDP has been desperate to replace Mori to avoid humiliation in the July upper house elections in which analysts predict a major setback for the party.

His announcement came a day after the ruling party agreed to hold its leadership election on April 24, and one year and a day after he took over the premiership after the late Keizo Obuchi suffered a fatal stroke. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Milosevic extradition

BELGRADE—Yugoslavia needs to prosecute Slobodan Milosevic at home to come to terms with his legacy of lawlessness, the foreign minister said Friday, so the government is in no hurry to send the former president to the UN war crimes tribunal. The government "inherited a kind of semi-mafioso state" from Milosevic and has every right to try him for the alleged corruption that has thrust the nation into a deep economic funk, Goran Svilanovic said. "There is a very high expectation abroad that we come to grips with our war crimes past," Svilanovic said. But satisfying Western demands for a speedy extradition "is not something we're really focused on at the moment," he said. The tribunal, based in The Hague, Netherlands, indicted Milosevic for crimes against humanity in 1999 for his brutal crackdown on ethnic Albanians in Kosovo province. *AP*

Outburst against free trade

BUENOS AIRES—It was nothing on the scale of the 1999 "Battle in Seattle," but violence has again marred an international trade meeting as rock-throwing youths took to the streets of Buenos Aires. Friday's clash followed peaceful protests by more than 7,000 people on the second day of a summit by trade negotiators from 34 nations. The delegates had already left meeting site when the rock-throwing began. A few dozen youths on the edges of the peaceful protest hurled gasoline bombs and rocks at police officers, who fired back tear gas. Some of the youths had slingshots, and others used clubs to shatter the windows of nearby bank buildings and shop displays. It was the latest in a string of violent protests against international meetings to promote free trade and showed, at least among a minority here, a vein of anger in a country stuck in a long economic crisis. *AP*

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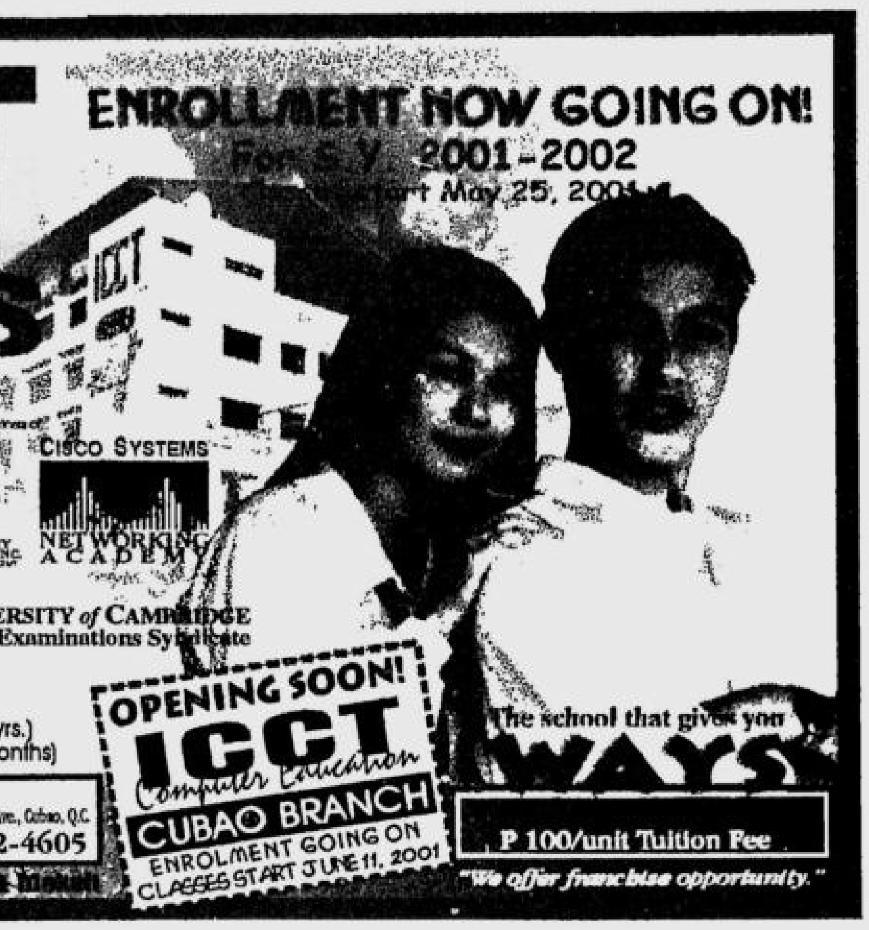

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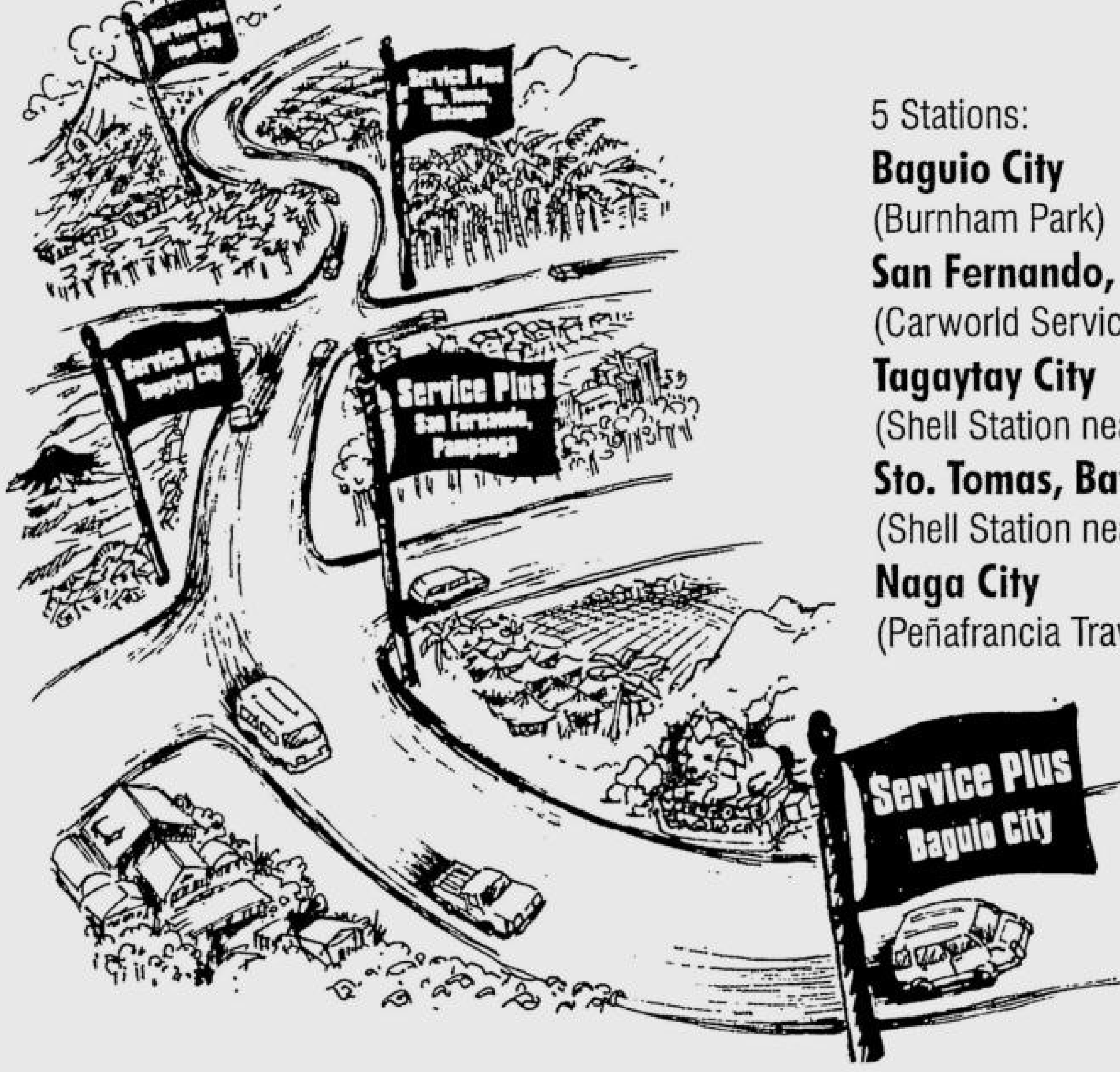
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(Burnham Park)
San Fernando, Pampanga
(Carworld Service Center)
Tagaytay City
(Shell Station near Taal Vista Lodge)
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(Shell Station near Junction)
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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Teachers air fears on poll duty

BY CARMELA REYES
PDI Central Luzon Desk

DOÑA REMEDIOS TRINIDAD, Bulacan—Saying they fear for their safety, 48 public school teachers who manned poll precincts here in previous elections said they would not report for poll duty on May 14, more so after a series of violent incidents reported recently in this town.

Jemma Borja, a teacher at the DRT High School in Pulong Sampaloc, disclosed the collective sentiment of her group during the signing of a peace covenant by mayoral candidates this week.

Doña Remedios Trinidad is among the critical areas being watched by the Commission on Elections and the police for the coming elections. In December last year, Mayor Esteban Paulino and his two aides were gunned down in nearby Angat town.

Paulino's widow Evelyn and PO3 Felix Valencia, the prime suspect in the murder, are facing each other in the mayoral contest. Both signed the peace covenant here on Monday and assured Comelec and police officials that their supporters will not resort to violence.

Despite the covenant, Borja said her group fears harassment from the armed supporters of local politicians, especially on election day and while they are transporting ballot boxes from remote mountain villages here to the municipal building.

She said the "full force" of the Bulacan police would not be sent to this town to watch every movement of the armed supporters of candidates.

"We were not this fearful before, there were no incidents of cheating and harassment then. With the killing of Mayor Paulino, there are many possibilities and we don't know what will happen, especially during election day," Borja said.

She confirmed reports of the existence of armed private groups of some candidates in the town but declined to name these candidates out of fear.

"We would avoid reporting for election duty this year if only there are ways. We don't care about the compensation, we care about our safety if only for our children. In fact, our spouses are dissuading us from reporting for poll duty," she added.

The teachers assigned to man the 45 precincts here would find it difficult to distinguish legitimate members of the police from members of politicians' armed groups as the latter may also wear police uniforms to hide their identities.

Edna Gener, municipal election officer, confirmed Borja's statement of the peaceful conduct of elections in Doña Remedios Trinidad town in previous years.

She said they are not sure whether this year's elections would be peaceful because of the recent killings, including the slaying of former Doña Remedios Trinidad Mayor Maximo Esquivel in March last year.

But Gener said she expected all the candidates to abide by the agreement reached during the peace covenant signing that candidates would not resort to violence.

Of the 14,000 residents in eight mountain villages of Doña Remedios Trinidad town, only less than 8,000 are registered voters, she said.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS
Civic Drive, Filinvest Corporate City
Alabang, Muntinlupa City

MALAYA AT MALUSOG
NA PAMAYANAN

08 March 2001

BUREAU CIRCULAR
No. 01 s. 2001

TO: ALL IMPORTERS FROM EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

SUBJECT: **Guidelines on the Temporary Ban on the Importation of Processed Meat Products from Cattle, Sheep and Goat, and other Food Ingredients Containing Substances Derived from these Animals**

In order to clarify the implementation of the Temporary Ban on European Meat and Meat Products under Memorandum Order No. 19 s. 2000 issued by the Department of Agriculture, the following guidelines for the importation of processed meat and meat products from Europe are hereby promulgated.

1. The processed meat products that shall not be permitted for importation and sale are products that may contain specified risk materials derived from animals (cattle, sheep and goat) that may be contaminated with Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or "mad cow disease" and are identified as follows
   - ➔ Canned meat containing meat/offals from cattle, sheep and goat such as corned beef and other meat preparations including frankfurters, liver paste, pate, goulash, soups and broths if one or more of its ingredients are derived from said animals.
   - ➔ Other processed meat products that may or may not be stable at ambient conditions like sausages, pasta filled/stuffed with meat derived from cattle, sheep and goat.
   - ➔ Food ingredients containing substances of bovine origin such as beef flavors, animal protein preparations or protein concentrates
2. In order to verify if the imported meat products do not contain the specified risk materials from BSE affected animals, BFAD Clearance shall be required prior to the release of shipments from Ports of Entry by the Bureau of Customs for products covered under the H.S. Codes of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, June 2000, listed in the following table:

Table 1. H.S. Codes of Products under Alert

1601.0000
1602.1010
1602.1020
1602.2010
1602.2020
1602.4111
1602.4191
1602.4192
1602.4910
1602.4920
1602.5000
1602.9011
1602.9091
1602.9092
1902.2000
2103.9000
2104.1000
2106.1000

3. Importers seeking BFAD Clearance for shipments under the above specified H.S. Codes must submit appropriate documents such as bill of lading, packing list, product labels or declaration of ingredients from the manufacturer (if the ingredients are not declared on the product label). In order to avoid delays in processing of clearances, the required documents should be submitted before the arrival of the shipment.
4. The DA Memorandum identified thirteen member countries of the European Union covered by the temporary ban which are the countries where sources of imported meat have been accredited. However, there are other countries which have been identified as possible sources of processed meat products and these are included in the BFAD watch list of European Countries identified below.

Albania
Austria
Belgium
Bosnia & Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Czech Republic
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Ireland
Italy
Liechtenstein
Luxembourg
Macedonia
The Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Slovak Republic
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom
Yugoslavia

5. Shipments with the prohibited processed meat products and food ingredients shall be returned to the country of origin or recommended for proper disposal at the expense of the importer.

These guidelines shall take effect immediately and shall be enforced until such time that the situation warrants the lifting of the temporary ban on meat products from European countries.

Strict compliance is hereby enjoined in the interest of public health and safety.

WILLIAM D. TORRES, Ph.D.
Director

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS
Civic Drive, Filinvest Corporate City
Alabang, Muntinlupa City

MALAYA AT MALUSOG
NA PAMAYANAN

08 March 2001

BUREAU CIRCULAR
No. 02 s. 2001

TO: SUPERMARKETS, DUTY FREE SHOPS AND OTHER RETAIL OUTLETS

SUBJECT: **Advisory on Voluntary Recall of Processed Meat Products Imported from European Countries**

A temporary ban on the importation of live animals (i.e., cattle, sheep and goat) and their meat products and other feed ingredients derived from said animals from European countries was ordered by the Department of Agriculture (DA) in the light of the increase in cases of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or "mad cow disease" in Europe through Memorandum Order No. 19 s. 2000 dated 29 November 2000. The ban has been implemented since December 2000.

The Bureau of Food and Drugs is monitoring the entry of processed meat products from Europe and based on the import data obtained from the Bureau of Customs, the processed meat products that have been imported from Europe for the Year 2000 included the following: ***corned beef, liver paste, luncheon meat, chopped ham, Danish ham, lamb curry, pasta with meat and other products simply identified as canned meat.***

All supermarkets, duty free shops and other retail outlets are hereby advised to voluntarily withdraw from their shelves all processed meat products from Europe if these contain meat/offals from cattle, sheep and goat. The ingredient declaration on product labels should be examined for the presence of beef, beef liver, and other substances derived from said animals. **Canned meat and other meat products with only pork or poultry as ingredients are not included in this recall advisory.**

While the abovementioned meat products may not be confirmed to contain specified risk materials from BSE contaminated animals, the Department of Health is recommending their recall from retail outlets as a precautionary measure to ensure that the risk of exposure to BSE by consumption of European meat products is minimized. A copy of the Bureau Circular to Importers from European countries is attached for your information and guidance on the processed meat products that are not permitted for importation and sale.

Owners/Managers of all supermarkets, duty free shops and retail outlets are expected to prepare an inventory of withdrawn meat products to be submitted to BFAD as soon as possible and to identify the respective suppliers of said products, indicating their contact business address and telephone/fax numbers. The withdrawn products shall be kept in the possession of the respective supermarkets, duty free shops and retail outlets, for verification and appropriate instructions for disposal. The same should not be transferred to any other location for storage without prior written notice from the concerned retailer and approval by BFAD.

All are enjoined to cooperate in the interest of protecting human and animal health from BSE.

WILLIAM D. TORRES, Ph.D.
Director

April 7 & 8, 2001 -- Inquirer

IRRI says it won't conduct GMO tests without gov't OK

BY DENNIS MALIWANAG
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—The International Rice Research Institute will not conduct experiments on genetically modified rice varieties in the Philippines if the government says so.

Duncan MacIntosh, IRRI spokesperson, said "we will be happy to follow what you decide as a nation," adding that biotechnology "is just one of the alternatives we're offering to farmers."

MacIntosh was responding to protesting farmers who trooped here during the IRRI's 41st anniversary Wednesday.

Bearing "Scientists for people, not for TNCs!" and "No GMO!" placards, hundreds of farmers from various parts of the country assailed the IRRI for "pushing researches detrimental to humans and the environment."

They dismissed the institute's "golden promises of bounty" as empty talk.

"Our farmers have suffered enough. First, they devastated our fields with the Green Revolution. Now, they want to contaminate further our agriculture with the Gene Revolution," said Leopoldo Guilaran, chair of the Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura.

Guilaran assailed the IRRI's continuing research on genetic engineering "despite the presence of safe alternatives."

The agency has applied in the Philippines for open-field experiments of rice varieties that will be genetically engineered to resist certain pest or have nutrients incorporated into the cereal.

Genetic engineering technology is being debated today, with advocates promising more yields and less chemical dependence and critics expressing fears of human and environmental hazards.

MacIntosh said different approaches were needed "to meet the geographical challenges that the Philippines is facing with today's shrinking space for agriculture due to urbanization amid increasing population."

"Even as the Philippines has a high 2.1 percent annual increase in yield, the country's population is increasing at a rate of 2.3 percent per year," he said.

Farmers, however, doubt that GMOs will ensure food security.

Alex Arias, chair of the Pakakaisa't Ugnayan ng Magbubukid sa Laguna said "it will only increase the small farmers' cost of production and ensure more profits for agricultural transnational corporations."

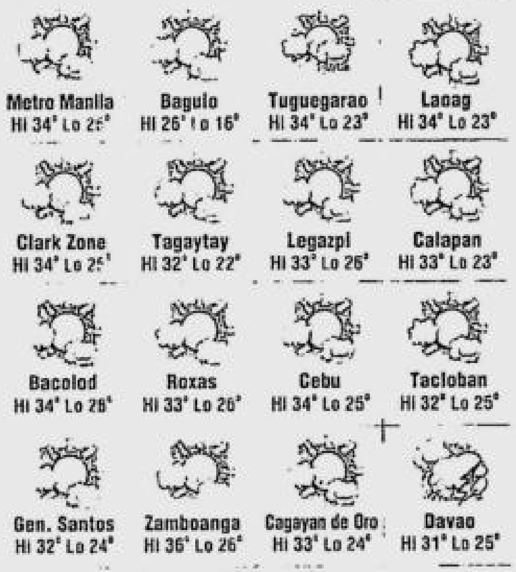
The protesters were joined in by farmer delegates from Indonesia and Bangladesh who also called on Malacañang to repeal Presidential

IRRI SAYS/ p.17

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA



Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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Ice cream for Mary Grace

BY LT. LIAN F. DE LA CRUZ

Editor's note: The author, 28, is a former correspondent of the INQUIRER's Mindanao Bureau. She and 1st Lt. Mary Grace Baloyo, 26, who died in a plane crash in Mabalacat, Pampanga, on March 26, belonged to the Philippine Air Force Flying School (PAFFS) Class 97B.

THREE days before my classmate, 1st Lt. Mary Grace Baloyo was gone, she had asked me over the phone for a favor, but the way she said it was rather unusual. It sounded like it was urgent and important. Of course, I know she could very well afford to buy herself one, but she wanted one from me.

I was in Jolo, Sulu, when we talked. She wanted to ask if I have had my air strike already after having been checked as a "Combat Ready" pilot. I said yes. She then said she wanted ice cream. I said yes.

The ice cream never reached her and that phone conversation was to be our last. In the afternoon of March 26, she went down with her OV-10A Bronco plane.

I didn't know that she had told a number of our classmates and senior officers about her ice cream request. I thought it was just between the two of us. It was during the wake that I learned that she was really looking forward for that ice cream.

Tradition

It has become a tradition with us pilots to treat our colleagues with ice cream and boodle fights if there is something we have accomplished. Like, if we are upgraded to the next level of air crew qualification or if we have had our first, tenth, 50th and 100th combat missions (air strikes) if one belongs to a combat unit like ours. And Grace have had more than four dozens of combat missions to her credit.

Grace never really asked for many favors from me. If she did, I would not consider them favors because these were very, very small things, like borrowing my cross-stitch patterns to photocopy them and having her finished cross-stitch work framed.

After hearing about Grace's fate, I had asked our squadron if I could go back to Sangley Point in Cavite to see her and pay my last respects. I was deployed in Zamboanga at the time and I was allowed to go back the following day.

On our way to Sangley, my boyfriend (who is also Grace's classmate) and I stopped by a convenience store to buy Grace her ice cream. We bought a pint of the most delectable flavor offered by the store. The size, we thought, would be enough for her because she had been very concerned about being fit.

I thought I had had enough of crying, but when I handed the ice cream to Grace's father that evening, I cried a bucketful after her disheartened father told me: "*Sayang, hindi na matitikman ni* Grace *ang bigay mo na* ice cream." Her father had placed the ice cream alongside her collection of angels and candles.

There have been several accounts of how Grace went down with her plane. But one thing truly remarkable of her was her being humane to other people.

Grace was the pilot-in-command (PIC) of the OV-10A Bronco and she showed that she was really in command and in control of the plane. She wasn't called Amazing Grace for nothing. In fact, she was among the class' best flyers while we were still undergoing our Undergraduate Pilot Training in Lipa City, Batangas.

Grace could have done so many things to save her life. She could have jettisoned her auxiliary fuel tank, but she did not. She was probably thinking that if she did, the tank would drop in a populated subdivision and this would explode and kill hundreds of people.

She could have ejected from the plane, but she chose not to because if she did, the plane would have crashlanded on residential villages, where hundreds of families reside. Grace could not live the rest of her life thinking of the many lives lost had she done all the possible things that would have saved her life.

No way

Instead, she maneuvered the plane away from many people, at the expense of her own life. As the PIC, she sits in front of the plane, and even if she had another experienced pilot with her, Capt. Ben Nasayao, there was no way he could have taken the controls of the aircraft.

Grace did not tell Captain Nasayao, "You have it, sir." She just said, "Sir, *alalayan mo lang ako* (Just guide me)" when their aircraft was already experiencing left engine failure. Unless a pilot tells this to another, he cannot just grab the controls of the aircraft. It was Grace's call and there was nothing else Captain Nasayao could do but shout, "Eject, eject, eject," in the same manner that another pilot, who was in the other OV-10A Bronco aircraft, had instructed Grace.

Captain Nasayao was able to grab the handle of his ejection seat and threw himself out. Within five seconds, the aircraft burst into flames with Grace still there. She deliberately chose not to eject because had she done so, both she and Captain Nasayao would have been saved. Once the PIC ejects, the backseat follows suit, but when the backseat ejects, the front seat remains.

And even if the ejection procedures can be made at zero altitude and air speed, Grace clearly did not opt for that, too.

Grace lived up to and remained true to all the awards she got for heroism and gallantry in action when she launched her attacks against bandits and Moro rebels in Mindanao.

She was very young and was gone too soon.

But we cannot ask God why. Instead, we can only thank Him for sending us an amazing angel named Mary Grace.

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★ MacArthur Highway, Capas
● Tarlac

SOUTH LUZON

BATANGAS
● Balayan
● Lemery
● Nasugbu
● Mataas na Lupa, Lipa City
● Bugtong na Pulo, Lipa City
● San Antonio, Sto. Tomas
● San Pascual, Bauan

CAVITE
● Aguinaldo Highway, Imus
● Aguinaldo Highway, Bacoor
● Aguinaldo Highway, Dasmariñas
● Bgy. Lumil, Silang
● Gov. Drive, Bo. Langkaan, Dasmariñas
● Gov. Drive, Batuhan, Dasmariñas
● Gov. Drive, Carmona
● Kabilang Baybay, Carmona

LAGUNA
● Batong Malaki, Los Baños
● Bo. Tubigan, Biñan
★ Laguna Technopark, Sta. Rosa
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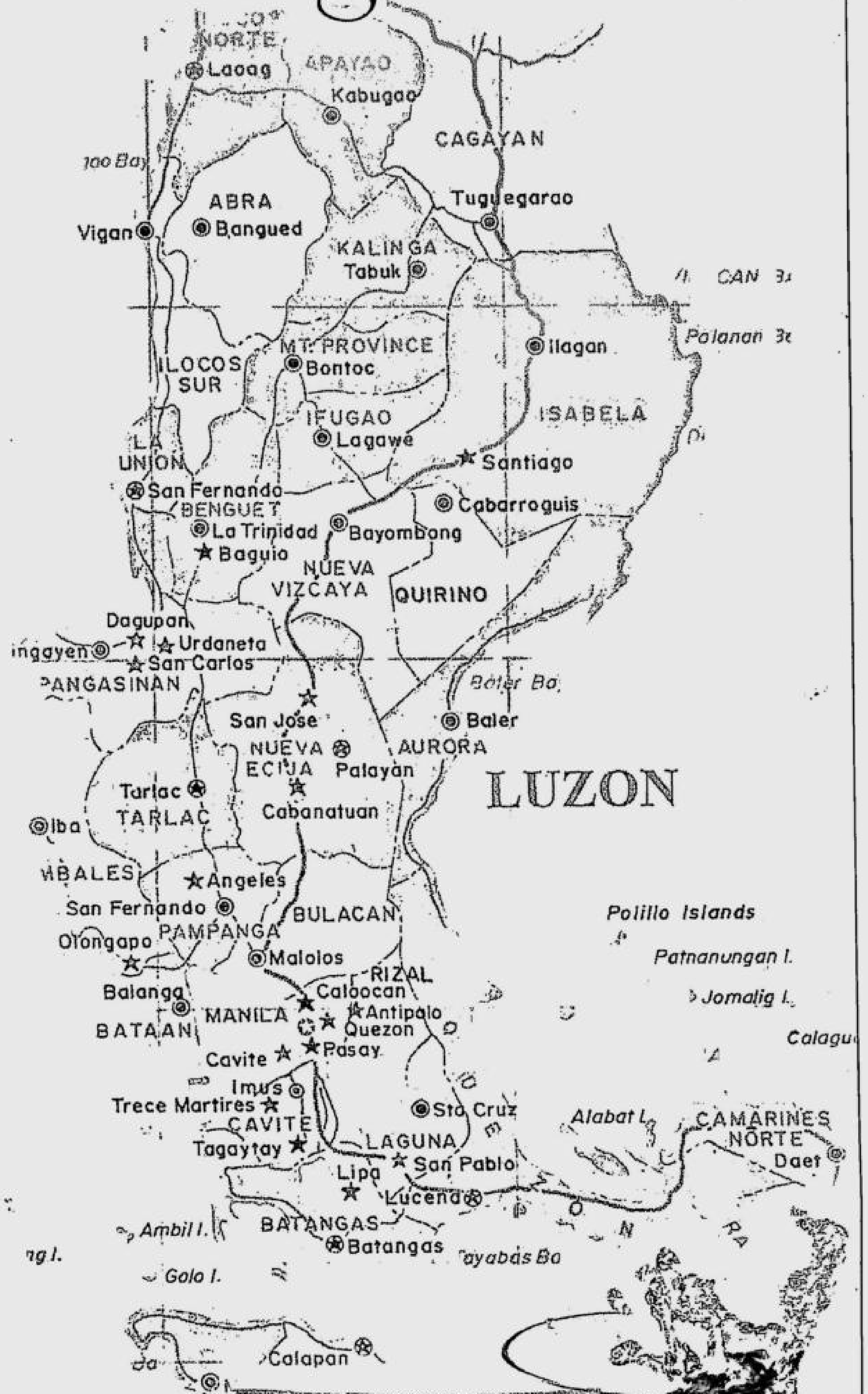
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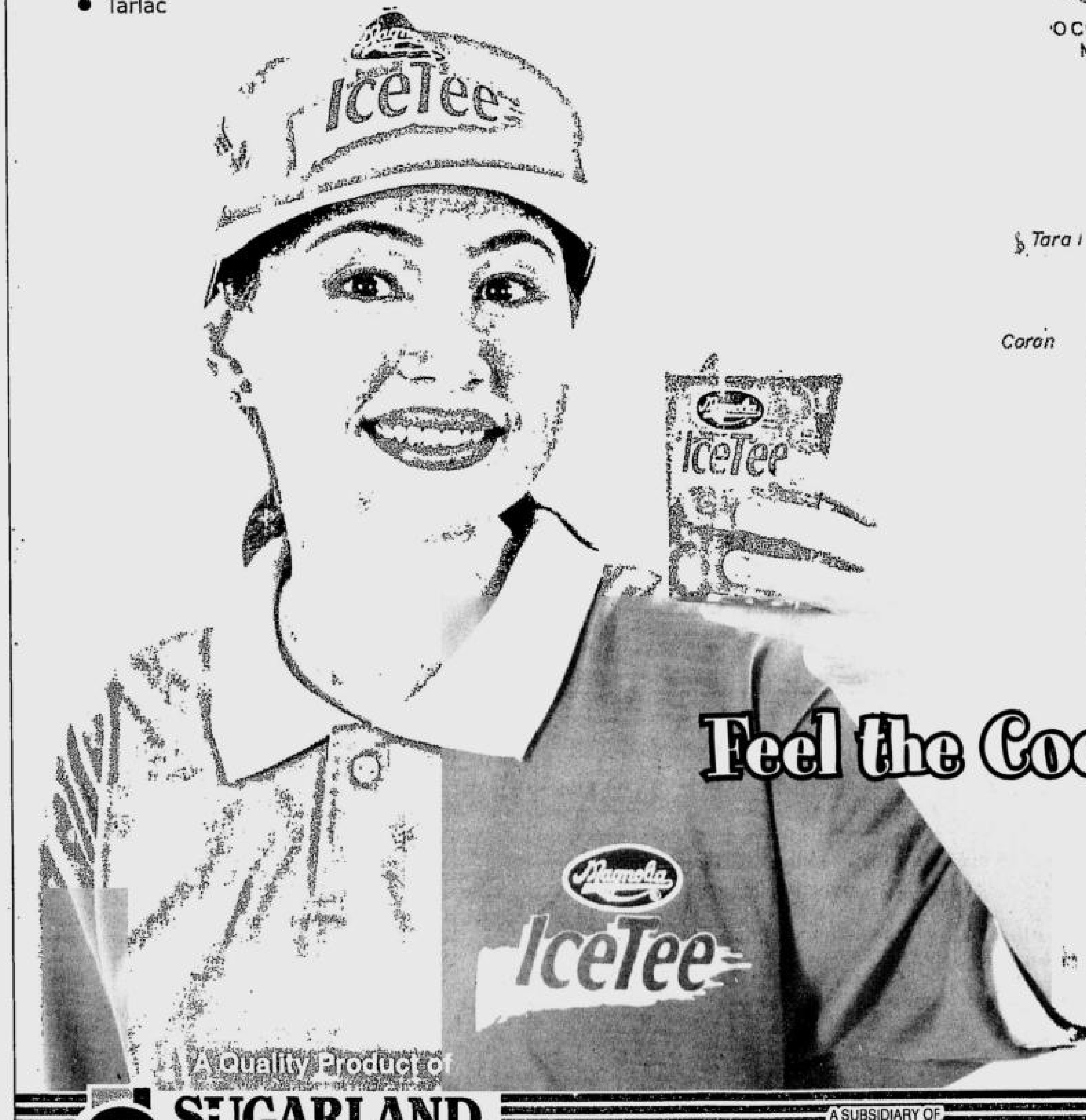
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Contest Requirements

☐ Contestants must submit three (3) entries for each category. They may join any or all of the following categories:
a) a house worth P150,000
b) a house worth P250,000
c) a house worth P350,000
d) a house worth P450,000

☐ Contestants shall submit a complete set of building plans and specifications including, but not limited to, the following:
a) Perspective;
b) Front, Back and Side Elevations;
c) Cross-sectional View;
d) Complete Floor Plan;
e) Electrical Plumbing and Sanitary Plans;
f) Structural Design (Columns, beams, girders, trusses, etc.)

☐ All designs and plans shall be accompanied by corresponding Bill of Materials based on the current availability and market price.

☐ Winners will be required to submit a 1:800 scale model.

Criteria

☐ All basic architectural and structural components shall adopt an environment-friendly, woodless design for all units. **(10 points)**

☐ Architectural designs and models must be aesthetic with interesting variations, rather than a segmental uniformity common in mass housing designs. **(20 points)**

☐ Designs should be structurally sound and economical. **(20 points)**

☐ Houses must be planned with a holistic approach for optimum space utilization combined with flair of creativity. **(30 points)**

☐ House designs must include the following finishing items: a) Ceiling for the interior and exterior (eaves); b) Gutters and downspouts; c) All interior partitions; d) Tile finish for flooring; e) Tile finish for toilet & bath; f) Kitchen cabinets; g) Bedroom closets; and h) Painting **(20 points)**

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☐ P350,000 House Category (3 designs) — **P150,000 + plaque & certificate per winning design**

☐ P450,000 House Category (3 designs) — **P150,000 + plaque & certificate per winning design**

Entries

☐ All entries that qualify shall be the exclusive property of the GSIS.

☐ A Board of Judges composed of well-known architects/designers shall screen all entries and prepare a final list of qualified entries.

☐ A Certificate of Participation shall be given all contestants whose entries pass the screening.

Contest Schedule

Submission of entries deadline	May 7, 2001	Submission of scale models of winning entries	May 25
Judging of entries	May 10	Awarding ceremonies	May 31

Entries may be submitted to the Office of the Senior Vice President for Housing and Real Property Development Group, GSIS Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Tel. No. 891-6010

For inquiries, please call Mr. Roberto Meneses at 891-6161 local 4283 or 891-6298 or the Manager of the GSIS branch nearest you.

Government Service Insurance System

Robot denies role in plan of beheading

By Noralyn Mustafa, Alexander Young, Julie Alipala-Inot and Jonathan F. Ma
PDI Mindanao Bureau

JOLO, Sulu—A faction of the Abu Sayyaf group here denied participation in the suspended plan to behead American Jeffrey Schilling, who is being held captive by another group.

Ghalib Andang, alias Commander Robot, sent a letter to a local radio station in Jolo, disowning the decision of Basilan-based Abu Ahmad Salayuddin, alias Abu Sabaya, to behead Schilling.

Sabaya on Thursday announced the suspension of the planned beheading as he called on the hostage's mother Carol to appeal to the government to stop the military operations launched against the bandit group.

Andang's group was behind the kidnapping of 21 mostly tourists from a dive resort in Sipadan, Malaysia, last year. Of the 21 hostages, only Filipino Roland Ullah remains with the bandits.

Ullah was turned over to Sabaya's group when the military launched offensives against the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu. Also last year, Sabaya's group went to Sulu to flee from pursuing government troops.

Schilling entered the Abu Sayyaf camp in Patikul, Sulu, on Aug. 28. He has since been allegedly held captive.

Government efforts to rescue the two hostages will be hampered by one possibility, according to Task Force Trident Deputy Commander Col. Romeo Tolentino.

Stockholm Syndrome

He said the hostages had already developed Stockholm Syndrome with their captors.

"This report was confirmed to us by the wife of Mujib Susukan, a certain Nurhaida Daud, after her stay with the terrorist rebels in Patikul," Tolentino said.

He said the two hostages were now "very, very cooperative victims."

Ullah reportedly fetches water and acts as cook for the Abu Sayyaf. "And Ullah has his own gun," Tolentino stressed.

"It is difficult to rescue people who do not want to be rescued. They are willing victims," he added.

As for Schilling, Tolentino alleged that the whole thing could just be a drama.

Schilling's wife Ivy Osani is a cousin of Sabaya.

"*Nagdadrama lang yan, pera-pera lang iyan, nagkukunwari lang si Schilling na sinasaktan ng kanyang* captors," he said. (He is just role-playing, it's just for money, Schilling is pretending he is being tortured by his captors.)

Reports reaching the military say Schilling is armed and carries his own gun freely when outsiders are not around the bandits' camp.

It is only when journalists dropped by that Schilling is tied up to bolster the Abu Sayyaf's claim that the American remains a hostage.

Sabaya said that if government wanted to end the problem, it should stop the military operations "or we might be provoked to execute Schilling."

Military offensives

But Joint Task Force Janus spokesperson Col. Jovenal Narcise and Southern Command spokesperson Col. Danilo Servando said there was no stopping the military offensives in Sulu and Basilan.

"The military operations against the Abu Sayyaf group will continue in accordance with the pronouncement of the President, that we will continue with the military operations. These will be done without let-up," Servando said in a briefing with media Friday.

Instead of a pullout, the military deployed a battalion of Army Scout Rangers from the 4th Infantry Division in Cagayan de Oro and more troops from the Central Mindanao.

"We also deployed two Scout Ranger battalions, an infantry battalion from the Philippine Army and we still have the strength from the 103rd and 104th and with the additional of one Marine battalion," Narcise said.

Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling Jr., said the Abu Sayyaf bandits still have options "to surrender, but we will process their surrender."

Servando said the primary objective of the task force was "to rescue the two remaining kidnapped hostages, but we will emphasize the safety of the civilians."

Camiling said evacuation and relief efforts are already in place with active support from the Area Coordinating Center under Sulu Gov. Abdusakur Tan.

Narcise said the operations will be less intensified.

"There will be no artillery fires to soften the enemy," he said.

Some Basilan villagers have started to evacuate as government troops moved in near suspected Abu Sayyaf hideouts.

Lawmen seize rice shipment

BACOLOD CITY—Customs agents and policemen seized on Friday about P12 million worth of suspected smuggled rice hidden in a warehouse at a private port here.

Gerardo Gonzales, Customs officer for Western Visayas, said about 13,000 bags of suspected smuggled rice were found in the Parreño warehouse of the BREDCO Port at the Reclamation area.

Nobody claimed ownership of the rice shipment when the lawmen raided the warehouse.

Supt. Tom Bañas, of the police intelligence unit, said a certain Paul Ocampo reportedly rented the warehouse.

Gonzales said the rice might have come from Thailand or Vietnam.

Suspicion that the shipment was smuggled was bolstered after the raiding team noted that the rice had been transferred to unmarked sacks.

Police said the shipment arrived at the BREDCO Port in the first week of March.

Customs and police investigators were still tracking down 18,000 bags of alleged smuggled rice which were also unloaded at the BREDCO Port last month.

Gonzales said the seized rice would be sold in public auction if its owner failed to present documents proving the legality of the shipment.

Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

INQUIRER Mindanao
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ▪ CAROLYN O. ARGUILLAS, Bureau Chief

A peace platform for Moner

PROF. Sheikh Moner Bajunaid: Battling the political giants.

GENE BOYD LUMAWAG

IF PROF. Sheikh Moner Bajunaid, 50, had not been lured by politics, he'd probably have been undersecretary in a key government agency now.

Bajunaid was in the short list of nominees for undersecretary in at least two major departments.

But the professor of Islamic Studies at the Mindanao State University in General Santos City (where he was chancellor from 1990 to 1995) opted instead to run for the Senate.

Q A

Bajunaid is confident that his name "rings a bell" because of his exposure on nationwide television and radio last year as chair of the technical committee of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's peace panel.

His name apparently didn't ring a bell with the Commission on Elections commissioners since he was stricken off the list along with other nuisance candidates.

The Comelec, however, put his name back in the list of official candidates for senator when it granted his motion for reconsideration.

Bajunaid, who recently spoke with the INQUIRER's **Allan Nawal**, *is one of seven Mindanaoan candidates from among 36 senatorial bets.*

Excerpts from the interview:

Q: You were earlier disqualified by the Commission on Elections.

A: Yes, but they eventually included me after we asked for reconsideration. In the new alphabetical listing, I am No. 4. The reason for my disqualification, according to the Comelec, was that I do not have the capability to launch a nationwide campaign to support my candidacy as an independent candidate. But it was very clear in my certificate of candidacy that I am the lone candidate of the Partido Sosyalista Demokratiko ng Pilipinas (PSDP). I might not be a broadcaster or a television host but my name would surely ring a bell among the people as a former member of the MILF peace panel.

Q: So how does it feel to be fielded against the giants of Philippine politics?

A: If you're asking me if I'm intimidated, no, not at all. I think this is even a plus factor to my candidacy because wherever I go, people are saying they are tired of old names, old faces, of candidates or politicians who have been in politics for so long. There is really a need to change the structure of our politics. And many of our countrymen feel this is the time for people with vision, candidates with platform of government, candidates who will work for programs for peace and development, especially in Mindanao. And that is exactly the central theme of my campaign.

Q: Why peace? Why not economic development?

A: Because without peace, there is no development. Whether you talk of *bagong pulitika* or new politics, without peace, nothing is worth talking about.

Q: You've been around Mindanao since the start of the campaign period. What is the common thing that people tell you?

A: I think the most detested thing I have been hearing is this 13-0 campaign (of the Macapagal administration's People Power Coalition). This is not acceptable to our people in Mindanao. They interpret that as something like 13 for Luzon and the Visayas and zero for Mindanao.

So it seems the campaign of 13-0 will have a backlash on the coalition because our people interpret it as absence of representation from Mindanao. If we look at proportional representation in the Senate, Mindanao should have at least six senators. With only two remaining senators in the senate now from Mindanao, there is a need to fill in at least four seats for Mindanao. And a campaign of zero for Mindanao is not acceptable.

There is a move now from many sectors, from the media, the civil society to campaign for Mindanao candidates.

Q: You're selling yourself as a Mindanao senator. Can you summarize your platform for the people of Mindanao?

A: We need to present to our people laws that are Mindanao-friendly, laws that will enhance and even promote harmony in Mindanao, laws that will help our people in Mindanao achieve peaceful and harmonious relationship between and among themselves.

In particular, I would like to see the end of war in Mindanao. I would like to have a specific law that will totally ban the declaration of war in Mindanao. I would like to institutionalize peace as a program of the government. I would like to institutionalize dialogue as a form of settling conflicts in Mindanao and the rest of the country.

I would also like to introduce a law that would create a peace corps. Of course, my background is that of an educator and I have had many years of experience both as a teacher and an administrator. This experience I can share as a lawmaker.

Q: There are reports that you are being fielded by the MILF or even by the Organization of the Islamic Conference. This is apparently because of your being part of the defunct MILF peace panel.

A: I am not an MILF candidate. The MILF did not field me. This is my personal decision because I believe in the democratic process, I believe in the electoral process. I thought I should express this by seeking public office.

I am a candidate of the PSDP as a political party. This is the party that is fielding me. Maybe they thought of the MILF thing because I always joke that MILF means "Moner Is a Loving Fellow."

Q: It is a known fact that waging a nationwide campaign can be draining, not only to the body but also to one's pocket. How are you coping?

A: I'm enjoying it. *Talagang pagod*, but it is good to know that there are lots of people who share my view. About the finances, the party is taking care of that. Also, friends share their resources, mostly in kind, such as campaign ads, spaces for headquarters and other small things in the eyes of some people but mean a lot to my campaign.

IRRI says . . .

(From page A14)

Decree 1620, which gives immunity to the IRRI.

"The Macapagal administration should make the IRRI liable for its numerous crimes against the peasantry and the people, including the death and illnesses suffered by IRRI workers and farmers in communities in its experimental farms," said Rafael Mariano of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

"If she can't do so, we will bring the IRRI's violations to the international courts and hold this government liable," he added.

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Buan didn't break, captors admit

(From page A1)

from its custodial duties and it would also minimize whatever damage he could inflict on the revolutionary movement later on given the knowledge he had accumulated about the NPA during his captivity.

According to presidential adviser on the peace process Eduardo Ermita, Rosal even commended the military for training Buan well.

"We were not able to break his will and spirit despite the prolonged captivity," Ermita quoted Rosal as saying.

The 39-year-old Buan is a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1984 and was intelligence officer of the Army's Southern Luzon Command when he was seized by NPA rebels in Lucena on July 7, 1999.

Rosal also talked to Buan's relatives and he told them that the military officer ate little food and refused to have his hair cut as a sign of protest during his captivity.

"Ka Roger said he (Buan) was stubborn . . . He said our nephew drank only one glass of water and ate two spoonfuls of rice every meal," said George Buan, uncle of Noel.

"If he had not been stubborn, we would have released him earlier," George said Rosal had told him and his brothers while Noel changed clothes in a hut before being reunited with his wife, Cielo, and daughter, Noelle Jenina.

George said his nephew did not tell them even in private how he was captured and how the NPA treated him.

But he told his uncles that he grew his hair long because there was no need to look neat.

Sen. Loren Legarda, who was one of those who worked for Buan's release, said Buan realized he was finally going to be freed when his captors gave him shampoo to wash his long hair.

"That was the time he got convinced that this time, (his release was) for real," Legarda said.

When he and his family were welcomed in Malacañang yesterday by President Macapagal-Arroyo, Buan was clean-shaven and was sporting a new haircut. But, Legarda said, it was not easy convincing Buan to cut his locks.

THE BUAN family, Jenina, Noel and Cielo arrive in Malacañang. JOAN BONDOC

"Ma'am, I cannot cut my hair. I will meditate. I want to go to Mt. Arayat in Pampanga, but I will have my hair this way," Legarda said Buan told her Friday night when she asked him to cut his hair.

It took time before Buan finally relented to their wishes to have a haircut so he could wear his military uniform and face the President and the press, Legarda said.

Some female reporters and Malacañang employees gushed when a dashing Buan in military uniform appeared at the Palace.

Even the President joked that Cielo now had her "handsome husband back."

Battle of wills

Throughout his captivity, Buan apparently fought a ceaseless battle of wits and wills with his captors, the NPA's Melito Glor Command.

Tirso "Ka Bart" Alcantara, spokesperson of the NPA command, said Buan was different from the late police Chief Insp. Abelardo Martin, who was also held captive by the NPA since November 1999 until his death during a military operation last March 8.

Alcantara said Martin had "become a friend" while Buan "remained an intelligence officer."

According to Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, a member of the government peace panel negotiating with the National Democratic Front, Buan was once able to escape from his captors but was recaptured by Mangyans.

"He didn't make it far," Braganza said.

The NPA custodial force that held him had reported that Buan would sometimes claim that he knew them all or could recall their faces if needed. He would also give them telephone numbers in Manila that they could call if they encountered problems in the future.

When he was initially interrogated after his capture, Buan refused to answer simple questions. When asked what his name was, Buan would reportedly reply: "What name? I have many names."

Buan also supposedly claimed that he was on vacation and was not on an official military intelligence mission when he was seized.

"He was a hostile prisoner," Braganza said.

An NPA indictment sheet of his supposed "war crimes" noted that even as a captive, Buan was spreading "misinformation" against leaders of the revolutionary movement. It said that the prisoner did not let up his psy-war while in captivity.

In Malacañang yesterday, President Macapagal-Arroyo said Buan's release was "a positive step auguring well for the peace talks between the government and the communist rebels."

Ms Macapagal thanked the NPA for making a "positive response" to the government's declaration of unilateral ceasefire to speed up Buan's release. She also thanked the humanitarian peace mission that helped negotiate the release.

She praised Cielo Buan for working hard to secure her husband's freedom.

"She never lost hope . . . and her tenacity paid off," Ms Macapagal said.

NDF consultant Jose Ma. Sison, in a statement from the Netherlands, said he hoped Buan's release would "enhance the favorable atmosphere" for the resumption of the peace talks that he insisted should be held in Norway.

He said the release proved that the communists deserved to be considered a "belligerent community under international law" that would entitle them to special diplomatic recognition.

Fried chicken

When he was released Friday, Legarda said Buan got his wish to have his favorite fried chicken for dinner but he did not eat it at the Army commander's lounge where it was set.

"He was complaining that it was cold and he was uneasy with the dinner set and that the lights were blinding him," Legarda said.

The senator theorized that the sensitivity to light could have been caused by Buan's long stay with rebels in the forest where it was dark even at daytime.

Legarda said Buan ate his fried chicken at the Army hospital where he spent the night.

"Cielo said he ate the food while she was asleep. He ate it in the comfort room because it was dark there. He said he was used to eating in the dark," Legarda said.

The INQUIRER learned that Buan would be kept in a bungalow at the maximum security area in Fort Bonifacio in the same house where Col. Victor Corpus was held for a considerable period after he joined the New People's Army. Corpus is now chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp). ***With reports from Blanche Rivera and AFP***

PMA plebe dies in training

BAGUIO CITY—Only three days on their mandatory orientation training here, a plebe of the Philippine Military Academy died early yesterday while another was hospitalized, apparently victims of a heat stroke, reports here said.

Reports said Monico de Guzman, one of 163 cadets who were admitted to the PMA last April 1, died of dehydration and respiratory failure at 4:30 a.m. yesterday, three days after he was taken to the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center.

His batch mate, Mark Anthony Caraan, 21, was taken to the BGHMC also on Wednesday but was airlifted to the V. Luna Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City yesterday afternoon.

Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion Jr., PMA assistant superintendent, said the two were "visibly weakened" after grueling field exercises at Fort del Pilar here on April 3, two days after they and 161 plebes joined the PMA.

"De Guzman was already manifesting signs of weakening after jogging on the second day of their orientation. The squad mates immediately reported this to the command. We have been interviewing incoming cadets since April 1, to determine how they were faring. But we did not see this coming," Purificacion said.

He said an independent medical team is scheduled to arrive today from Camp Aguinaldo to conduct an independent probe of the incident.

De Guzman was the sixth cadet since 1977 to have died of heat stroke during training, PMA records showed. Two third class cadets died in 1977 while two fourth class cadets died in 1984 and 1988. Another first class cadet died of heat stroke while training in Ternate, Cavite, in 1999.

De Guzman's death came less than a month after Cadet Fourth Class Edward Domingo of Camiling, Tarlac, died when he was allegedly hazed by four upper class cadets. ***Vincent Cabreza and Frank Cimatu, PDI Norhern Luzon Bureau***

Cardinal Sin . . .

(From page A1)

to ban the film and sack censors chief Nicanor Tiongson.

Uphold morality even if it means being scoffed at by "mighty powers," the cardinal instructed the Catholic faithful who will flock to churches around the country today, Palm Sunday, to have their palms blessed in observance of Jesus entry into Jerusalem 2000 years ago.

Palm Sunday ushers in Holy Week culminating on Easter Sunday, which celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, a cornerstone of the Catholic faith.

In his message at the start of Holy Week, Sin called on Catholics to take up their crosses even in the midst of rebuke, hatred and severe opposition.

He reiterated: Uphold morality even if it means being scoffed at by "mighty powers."

"Once again we pause as a nation to observe Holy Week. We again confront ourselves with the cross of Jesus Christ where we understand who God really is in our lives," Sin said.

Don't just stand there

"But we do not simply stand beneath the cross and behold it," Sin said.

"What the cross tells us if we give away everything in love, for people, then we shall achieve the fullness of life and true peace and joy. Jesus shares his suffering love—a love that endures in the midst of rebuke and hatred, a love that never grows timid and weak in the face of severe opposition, a love that always proclaims justice and righteousness," he added.

"It is for this reason that we are always called to uphold the truths of God even if it means alienation," Sin said.

"We must have the strength to carry the cross even if it means confronting mighty powers, even if it means being misunderstood and calumniated, even if it means proffering a counter-culture that is not widely accepted," he added.

The influential archbishop said Jesus Christ bravely faced similar obstacles.

Caritas Sunday

The cardinal also issued a pastoral letter urging parishioners to give generously to the poor through Caritas Manila. The funds raised will fund the special programs of Caritas for children needing special protection, prison inmates, ex-convicts and their families and persons with HIV-AIDS.

The funds are also earmarked to benefit the urban poor in the six ecclesiastical districts of the Archdiocese of Manila.

"Whatever you give," the cardinal said in his letter, "should be something of yourself, not only of your excess, but of your substance."

When the powerful become powerless

(From page A1)

regular day, sans lights and the ubiquitous electric fan.

Most everyone had to content themselves with some furious manual fanning.

The blackout also prevented Aquino's maid from cooking lunch. "I have an electric range that's why the maid couldn't cook," Aquino told the INQUIRER, "so we had grilled pork chops instead."

Sleeping through the heat did not prove to be a problem for Aquino, however, who lives in a posh townhouse in Quezon City with 5-year-old Joshua.

"I can sleep through anything," Aquino said, "but Josh was so uncomfortable because he was really perspiring, that's why he woke up so early."

Her Bayantel landline was also down and she couldn't fax her Monday column to the INQUIRER.

"I don't know, every time there's no electricity, Bayantel is dead," she said.

No charge

Power wasn't the only thing that crashed as mobile phones, traffic lights and the metro train system shut down.

The communication glitch affected the processing of media information throughout Luzon. Reporters could not be reached nor could they call their stories in as cell phones gave out and could not be recharged. Computers, for the most part, were silent.

Generators were the order of the day for many businesses but most opted to send their Saturday employees home early.

This added to the traffic woes as major intersections without lights and enforcers got hopelessly tangled.

On Taft and Rizal Avenues, as well as portions of Roxas Boulevard, the South Luzon Expressway, Quirino Avenue and España, traffic began to swell at noon as people left their sweltering homes to seek cooler air in shopping malls, parks and at the seaside.

Traffic around SM-Manila near City Hall was gridlocked for hours as thousands of shoppers flocked to the second of a three-day sale.

Many shoppers were chagrinned after they could not withdraw cash from automatic teller machines. Long queues formed before the few working machines.

No trains

Also contributing to the heavy traffic was the suspension of the Light Rail and Metro Rail Transit systems. Guards at the stations shooed commuters away, saying the trains would not be running that day.

Western Police District headquarters on UN Avenue looked eerie as cops assigned to the busiest units—homicide, theft and robbery, drug enforcement and general assignments—lit candles in their offices in order to receive complainants.

Some investigators brought their tables and typewriters to the lobby where they filled out their reports.

In Tondo, a fire started by a candle razed three shanties around noon on Velasquez Street. The blaze reached the fourth alarm before it was put out by firefighters some 50 minutes later.

At the Kamuning, Quezon City police station, the 17 jail detainees there did their best to deal with the power outage in their cramped cell despite an outbreak of *bungang araw* (prickly heat).

"It was good we transferred some prisoners yesterday. The other day, they numbered more than 30," desk officer SPO4 Edmund Senido said.

Besides having to fan themselves incessantly, the prisoners also complained that the single faucet in the cell had gone dry. None of them had taken a bath when the INQUIRER visited.

In contrast, hairdresser Ricky Reyes was forced to go to the condo of a friend at 7 a.m. to take a bath since Reyes' own electric pressure tank was not working.

No revenue

He complained of lost revenues since his chain of beauty parlors was closed. He was lucky, though, because his mall parlors were able to open at 3 p.m.

"When you pay rent to the mall owners, they don't deduct anything because there was a power failure," Reyes said. "We lost half a day of income."

Other people rushed to the nearest hotel—five-star or less.

Singer and TV host Ariel Rivera took his family—wife Gelli de Belen and sons Joaqui and Julio—to the Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Hotel in Mandaluyong.

"We had no choice," Rivera said. "I stayed awake all night trying to make the boys comfortable by fanning them while they were sleeping, but they were really perspiring. The blackout was really a hassle."

Two-year-old Miguel Andre "Migs" Medina from UP Village, Quezon City, was taken by his family to the nearby Sulo Hotel.

His grandmother, Chinky Sim-Cariño, said Migs was recuperating from the flu and a cold and to make him suffer the heat at home might trigger a recurrence.

"The sad thing is Migs cannot live without an aircon," Cariño told the INQUIRER. "Who can blame him, even adults cannot stand the heat this summer."

Cariño's son-in-law, for his part, had to rush to Pasig City where the family owns a Lola Lita's Barbecue and Inihaw Specialties franchise to ensure that the meat in the freezers was transferred to a cold storage.

Fearing the blackout would last a long time, Dalia Valderama of Comelec Avenue, North Susana Heights, cooked all the frozen meat and fish she had bought the other day.

Most children and their parents, though, happily invaded the nearest Jollibee and McDonald's that had power generators to kill time, play or otherwise have fun on a frustrating day, mad cows and diseased hoofs and mouths be damned.

No luck

One group of children, however, was not as lucky.

Ten kids afflicted with hydrocephalus and meningocele, both congenital head abnormalities, had to have their scheduled surgeries courtesy of the President's husband, Mr. Mike Arroyo, postponed.

Arroyo had volunteered to shoulder the cost of the operations and medicines. He went ahead and visited the children at the Philippine General Hospital neuro-surgery ward yesterday anyway to assure their relatives of his continued support and the rescheduling of the operations to April 27.

Teen heartthrob Onemig Bondoc called off two commitments yesterday because of the unscheduled blackout.

At 1 p.m., Bondoc was to chat with his US-based Filipino fans at the Benedictine Abbey School in Diliman, Quezon City.

The chat did not push through after the State-side fans failed to get through the school's local Internet server.

GMA-7 host Lyn Ching, who owns Quickly, a flavored milk and fruit shakes stand on Timog Avenue, Quezon City, said sales were very slow.

"Everything that you can imagine that would go bad went bad," Ching said.

She said she woke up at 5 a.m. "I tried to sleep again but I could not because it was so hot."

One news correspondent swore she saw a group of persons who apparently were able to grab the right clothes even in the early morning darkness.

They were wearing their old T-shirts from the Ramos administration when chronic and debilitating power outages were the norm.

The T-shirts had the acronym TINY across the front—"*T-ng In—g* Napocor '*Yan*". ***With reports from Blanche S. Rivera and PNA***

Black Saturday

(From page A1)

Yesterday's second outage at 10:10 a.m. halted Metro Manila's commuter train systems, the Metro Rail and Light Rail Transits, stranding hundreds of commuters along the major highways of Edsa and Taft.

Traffic attendants and police fanned out by dawn to coax traffic through gridlocked intersections in Metro Manila, a metropolis of 9 million, said police Capt. Daniel Rosete.

But although the two blackouts, which came at the start of a hot summer weekend, caused discomfort and annoyance, they sparked no major confusion among Filipinos long accustomed to occasional power failures.

In October, a Luzon-wide power failure occurred after a transmission line fault. Prior to that, electricity lines tripped in December 1999 when jellyfish clogged a power plant's reservoir.

How it happened

Bacani said that the initial cut was caused when a power cable fell between the provinces of Laguna and Quezon before dawn.

The overload of the line, linking plants in the two provinces, caused an automatic shutdown of all power stations linked to the Luzon grid as part of the system's safety feature, Napocor said.

According to a Reuters report, Bacani said the connectors linking the transmission line melted due to excessive heating.

Luzon was hit by the second blackout barely six hours after being plunged into darkness by the distribution system collapse, officials said.

The load was transferred to the 230-kv Tayabas-San Jose line. The power was restored up to 60 percent but the second line also tripped.

The lines connect sectors of the Luzon grid and are crucial to the continuous supply of power in the grid.

As Napocor was restoring the fallen line, a converter drawing electricity from the Visayas to Luzon malfunctioned, triggering the second power cut, Agence France Presse quoted Bacani as saying.

Submarine cable

Arvee Villafuerte, a Napocor spokesperson, said "some problems developed" in a submarine cable linking Luzon to the geothermal power plant on Leyte.

Just before the system collapsed a second time, about 50 percent of power distribution on the island had been restored.

"We are now back to square one, meaning we are blacked out again at 10:10 a.m.," Bacani said.

As of 2 p.m., about 40 percent of the system had power restored, Napocor officials said, adding that full power would be back between 6 to 8 p.m. if all went smoothly.

But they added that the distribution system is "very unstable."

Among the areas up and running by afternoon were districts in the heart of Manila and the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Airport officials said power supply from generators was ensuring that no flights were delayed Saturday.

Fire fighters reported no increase in emergency calls.

As of late afternoon, power was still being restored in stages elsewhere on Luzon, officials said.

Biggest customer

The blackout affected Napocor's largest customer, the Manila Electric Co. and its franchise areas in Luzon. The Lopez-owned Meralco, the country's main power distributor, buys 60 percent of the state power firm's output.

Meralco serves 19 cities and 92 towns in Luzon. Its franchise area covers Metro Manila, Bulacan, Rizal and Cavite, parts of Laguna, Quezon and Batangas and about 19 barangays in Pampanga.

Len Nasario of Meralco told local radio the faulty transmission facilities were in a mountainous area where there had been frequent cases of pilferage of electrical cables and even of entire steel transmission towers.

Villafuerte, the Napocor spokesperson, said the effort to restore power was hampered by the theft of aluminum high voltage cables in the area.

Scrap metal

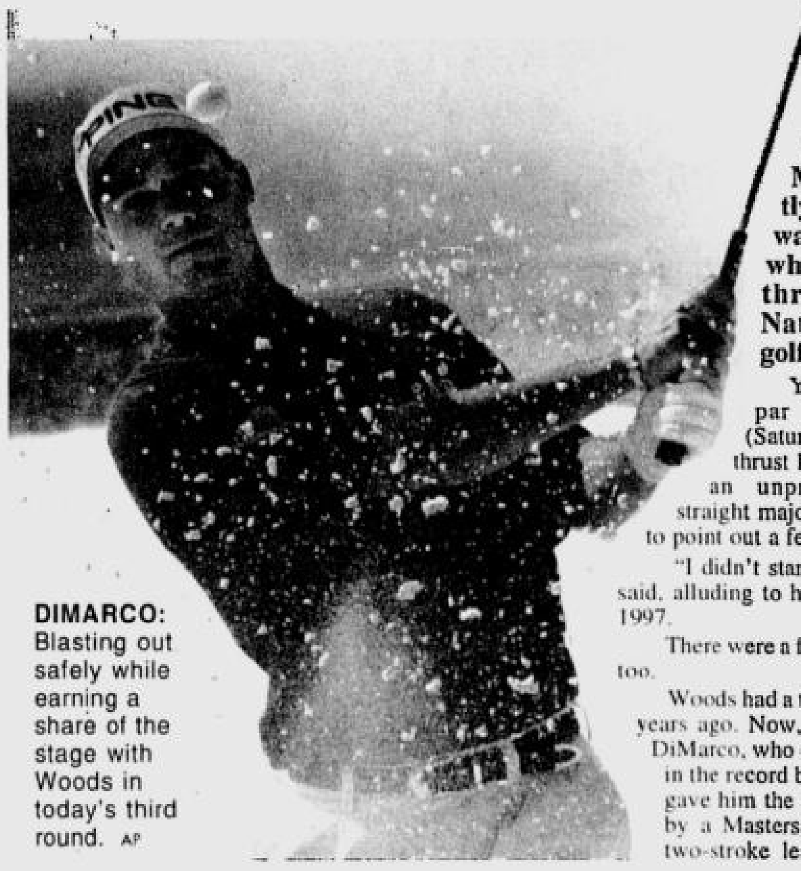
He said that earlier this year, about 350 meters of aluminum cable were stolen, weakening a link in that area of the Luzon grid and preventing immediate diversion of electricity from power plants during yesterday's blackout.

Authorities believe the aluminum is sold by the kilo to metal scrap dealers. Villafuerte said the stolen cables are used in making expensive car mag tire rims.

One of the line's steel towers fell down last month after still unidentified culprits sawed off a cluster of conductors. ***With reports from Alcuin Papa, Jerome Aning; AP, AFP, Reuters***

WOODS 2 BEHIND

DiMarco: Feels like a dream



DIMARCO: Blasting out safely while earning a share of the stage with Woods in today's third round. AP

AUGUSTA, Georgia—Tiger Woods' score midway through the Masters is exactly the same as it was four years ago when he romped through Augusta National and into golf history.

Yet despite a 6-under-par 66 on Friday (Saturday in Manila) that thrust him into position for an unprecedented fourth straight major, Woods was quick to point out a few discrepancies.

"I didn't start off 4-over par," he said, alluding to his first nine holes in 1997.

There were a few other differences, too.

Woods had a three-stroke lead four years ago. Now, he is chasing Chris DiMarco, who carved his own niche in the record books with a 69. That gave him the lowest 36-hole score by a Masters rookie (134) and a two-stroke lead over Woods and Phil Mickelson.

And while Woods said his 70-66 start was easier this time around, the rest of the weekend figures to be anything but that.

For all the hype over Woods' quest for his unique version of a Grand Slam _ holding the trophies of all four professional majors _this Masters is living up to expectations in more ways than one.

It all unfolds Saturday (Sunday in Manila) on a course expected to turn firm, fast and cruel, a drastic change from soft conditions that yielded 73 rounds under par over the first two days, the most in nine years.

And it won't take long for DiMarco to experience a weekend at a major.

"What a stage," he said. "Playing with Tiger, the best player in the world, on the best course in the world. You can pinch me if you want. It feels like a dream."

If so, it should seem familiar to Woods. He also started 70-66 in 1997 when he set 20 tournament records to win his first major.

He blew away Colin Montgomerie in the third round and left everyone else in his wake, winning by a record 12 strokes with a record score of 270.

"I'm right there in the ball game, and with a great chance on the weekend," he said.

Woods isn't alone.

Mickelson recovered from a disastrous stretch for a 69 and has never looked more poised to win his first major championship.

Right behind was David Duval, showing no signs of rust or a bad right wrist, back for his fourth straight run at a green jacket after a 66 left him only three strokes out of the lead.

"I came in here with every intention of winning the golf tournament, and I still have that," he said. "I'm excited about my prospects."

"It doesn't really matter who's up on top of the board, because you have to execute your golf shots the way you know that you have to—especially on this golf course," Woods said. "I know that. I've experienced that. And I go out there with that mindset."

Mickelson refused to collapse despite a sloppy bogey on No. 10 and a tee shot into Rae's Creek on No. 12 that led to double bogey.

He birdied three of the last six holes, saved par from the bunker on the 18th and was in great shape.

"I'm very excited to be where I'm at," Mickelson said.

Joining Duval at 137 was two-time U.S. Open champion Lee Janzen (70), Match Play champion Steve Stricker (71), Angel Cabrera (71) and Toshi Izawa (66).

Slovenian Lancer netfest champion

By June Navarro

LUKA Gregorc of Slovenia defied the energy-sapping heat and the power outage yesterday to win the 12th Mitsubishi Lancer International Junior Tennis Championships.

And he did it at the expense of Australia's Clinton Letcher, 6-4, 6-3, before a lean crowd at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

"The weather was worse than I had expected. Very tough, very hot," said the 17-year-old Gregorc, whose brother Mika won the title in 1996.

Gregorc, unseeded but ranked 98th in the world, combined power and precision to bag his second tournament this year, adding the Pattaya International Junior Tennis Championships in Thailand last week.

Second-seeded Su-Wei Hsieh of Taipei denied defending champion Angelique Widjaja a second title, 7-6, 4-6, 6-1, to capture the girls' title.

Shorter but longer in stamina, the 5-foot-3 Hsieh dominated her 5-foot-6 opponent in the deciding third set.

In the boys' doubles, India's Vinod Kumar Sewa and Sunil Kumar Sipaeya outlasted New Zealand's Jacob Olsen and Cristopher Westerhoff of South Africa, 6-1, 4-6, 7-5.

Widjaja and Hsieh ripped Korea's Yoo-Mi Jung and Sae-Mi Lim, 6-2, 6-3, to snare the girls' doubles title.

Rosales, Pacto tied in CAP-F Hills

By Jong Arcano

ANTIPOLO—Gerald Rosales didn't know about the Luzon-wide brownout yesterday until he saw a lighted candle at the breakfast table. Hours later, Robert Pactolerin reminded him of the power outage.

A triple-bogey on the 12th got the lights out of Pactolerin as Rosales, eagling the 10th, tied Pactolerin for the lead with 18 holes left in the CAP-Forest Hills Golf Classic here.

Rosales' bid to remain undefeated on local soil after winning the Philippine Open at Riviera last November came alive when he shot a day-best, four-under-par 67.

That was enough to overcome Pactolerin's overnight lead of three strokes.

Pactolerin hit five birdies on six holes ending on the 11th to move five strokes ahead of Rosales at the turn.

But Pactolerin drove into love grass lining the 12th fairway. The ball hardly moved when he made his second shot and, after taking an unplayable-lie penalty, he was on the green in five.

The leaders have a one-stroke lead over first round leader Danny Zarate, who missed a share of the lead following a three-putt bogey on the 18th.

Zarate finished with a 68, a reward he got for his steady driving on another day when the high mercury level sent the surviving pack dashing to the shower room after the round.

With his 69, Al Cruz was two shots behind in this fourth leg of the pro circuit also supported by the Fil-Estate Group of Companies, Metro Rail Transit and Camp John Hay Dev't Corp.

Tony Lascuña (68), the Ericsson-Smart Zed Classic champion at Sherwood Hills, was another two strokes off at 207.

Peter Miñoza, the kid brother of Frankie who shot 65 on Friday, ballooned to a 73 for 208.

SHOWN signing the leg sponsorship agreement between College Assurance Plan and the Philippine Golf Tour for the CAP-Forest Hills Golf Classic are (seated, from left) CAP director Marsh Thompson, CAP president and CEO Enrique Sobrepeña and Philippine Golf Tour chair Robert John Sobrepeña. Looking on are (standing, from left) King Rodrigo of CAP and Philippine Golf Tour officials Peng Perez de Tagle and architect Ruben Payumo.

SVI Subic race on

EXPECT close and interesting battles in the "Asian Festival of Speed" and "SVI-Subic Grand Prix," which gets underway today at the Subic International Raceway in Olongapo City.

Some 25 drivers from seven Asian countries, including host Philippines, are entered in this annual series organized by Motorsports Asia Ltd. since 1992.

Hong Kong drivers Henry Lee Jr. and Kenny Lo will defend the titles in their respective categories in this 16-round, annual series which will also be held in Malaysia, Thailand, Korea, China and Macau.

Lee, a mainstay of the WK Longman Racing, defeated 1999 champion Charles Kwan and Albert Kwan's BMW 320I and Au's Honda Integra.

The highest-placed Filipino entries in Division I last year were brothers Kookie and Georges Ramirez, who finished seventh and eighth, respectively.

Carmona hosts Shell karting

THE SHELL Super Karting Championships resume with the third leg today at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Carmona, Cavite with top karters seeing action in eight race categories.

Jess Garcia of Kart 1 and Pepon Marave of Demvel's Enterprises head the small but elite cast of karters seeing action in the centerpiece Formula super A category in this annual series sponsored by Coca-Cola, Bridgestone, MatchBox/Hot Wheels, Nokia and Eastway Racing.

Garcia ruled the kickoff leg last March 4, while Marave topped the second leg last March 18.

Among the other karters to watch are:

Formula 125—Angelo Barretto, Bert Neuhof, Mike Potenciano, Juha Roiha and Mike Sy.

Intercon—Mario Cunanan, Marzo Samson, Bingo Valero, Allan Uy and Christian Uy and Christian Sotto.

FSL Light—Donavan Yu, Uwe Madamba, Jeremy Marquez, John Paul Dizon and Jose Aguinaldo.

FSL Heavy—Victor Yap, Dennis Almuete, Jerome Montemayor, Joseph Salazar and Edgar Quesada.

Cadet 85—Mark Bumgarner, Michelle Bumgarner, Marty Aguilar, PocholoAnton and Mike Anton.

Cadet 60—Lorenzo Rijk, Ken Monsones,Buffy Laurel, Yeoj Marquez and Marlon Stockinger.

An interesting sidelight in the race is the debut of popular movie star Onemig Bondoc, who will carry the banner of Hot Wheels/Match Box.

Bondoc will be the third celebrity to join local kart races after movie/television star Dominic Ochoa and comedian Vandolph Quizon.

Wang spells money for NBA

DALLAS—Wang Zhizhi's debut with the Dallas Mavericks could translate into big money for the National Basketball Association, ever mindfall of marketing opportunities with the league's first Asian player.

The 7-foot-1 (2.16m) center scored six points and grabbed three rebounds in eight minutes here Thursday, inspiring ovations from a sellout crowd as the major attraction in a 108-94 Dallas victory over Atlanta.

The game was seen by more than 300 million people in China, said Mavericks owner Mark Cuban, thrilled at the idea of his team becoming a global phenomenon with such players as Germany's Dirk Nowitzki and Nigeria's Obinna Ekezie.

"It's a good opportunity to open the NBA to a greater market," said Bill Duffy, Wang's agent. "I have just told him to relax and play ball. The other stuff is going to happen without you being involved."

Kemp rehab

PORTLAND, Oregon—Shawn Kemp's disappointing National Basketball Association season with the Portland Trail Blazers has come to a troubled end. The Oregonian newspaper reported here Friday that Kemp will enter a drug rehabilitation program and miss the rest of the season.

Complete results

Philadelphia 96, Cleveland 88; L.A. Lakers 100, Boston 96; Toronto 108, Orlando 100; Miami 81, Charlotte 76; Indiana 100, Chicago 93; Minnesota 101, Phoenix 88; Sacramento 118, Vancouver 90; L.A. Clippers 113, Milwaukee 110, OT; Portland 122, Golden State 91. *AP*

SPORTSWATCH

Estimo hits PCF; Garma wins

THE NATIONAL Chess Federation of the Philippines took the Philippine Chess Federation to task for organizing the so-called 2nd Philippine Chess Grand Prix without the sanction of the NCFP. "Since the NCFP is now the sole governing body of chess in the country, PCF officials as a matter of courtesy should have informed and sought sanction from us about their event," said NCFP executive director Sammy Estimo. "The PCF is touting the event as a national competition so NCFP sanction is not optional but necessary," Estimo added. Meanwhile, IM Chito Garma stopped Richard Bitoon but NM Reggie Olay grabbed the spotlight by beating GM Bong Villamayor yesterday in Round 6 of the National Open Chess Championships finals series at the SSS headquarters in Quezon City. The standings: (Men's) Torre, Bitoon, 4.5; Antonio, Sayson, Garma, 4.0; Villamayor, Senador, Datu, 3.0; Gonzales, 2.5; Laylo, 2.0; Ola, 1.0; Sales, 0.5 (Women's) Mendoza, 5.0; Mariano, 4.5; Toledo, Lomibao, 4.0; Torres, 3.5; Flores, 3.0; Joya, 2.5; Rivera, Cruz, 2.0; Caños, Castillo, Itaas, 1.5

Piñol to stage Pacquiao defense

KIDAPAWAN CITY, Cotabato—Work is under way to spruce up the Cotabato provincial gymnasium where Manny Pacquiao will defend his WBC international featherweight championship against Thai challenger Wethya Sakmuangklang on April 28. Some 30,000 fans from this city and nearby provinces are expected to jam the venue to watch Pacquiao's defense. "The people of Cotabato is very excited to watch Pacquiao fight here again," said North Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol who was instrumental in bringing Pacquiao's defense here. Pacquiao, who hails from General Santos City, last fought here on Oct. 27, 1999 when he stopped Australian Todd Makelin on the fourth round in a non-title fight.

BASEBALL RESULTS

American League—Boston 11, Tampa Bay 4; Minnesota 6, Kansas City 2; Detroit 10, Chicago White Sox 9, 10 innings; Toronto 13, N.Y. Yankees 4; Cleveland 4, Baltimore 3; Seattle 9, Texas 7, 10 innings; Anaheim 5, Oakland 4.

National League—Chicago Cubs 3, Philadelphia 2; Montreal 10, N.Y. Mets 6; Houston 4, Pittsburgh 1; Milwaukee 5, Cincinnati 4; Atlanta 7, Florida 5; Los Angeles 10, San Francisco 1; San Diego 10, Colorado 6; St. Louis 12, Arizona 9. *AP*

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Mr. Purao 2. Silver Rose 3. Absolute Power 4. South Rim 5. Water Polo
Race 2—1. Favorite Trick 2. The Magician/Regimental Lass 3. Free Entrance 4. Air Express
Race 3—1. Big Kahuna 2. Sand Splash 3. Boy Yoski 4. Royal Diamond 5. Power Pack
Race 4—1. Batangas Entry 2. Serena 3. Kitty Hawk 4. Man of the Hour 5. Staunch Ally
Race 5—1. Free Bee 2. Speed Goddess 3. Bumper to Bumper 4. Mrs. Big 5. Terrific
Race 6—1. Manila Millennium 2. Hostile Witness 3. Dynamite Miss 4. My Indy
Race 7—1. Lady Queen 2. Mr. Positive 3. Northern King 4. St. Emilion 5. Sir Olizon
Race 8—1. High Roller 2. Streets of Gold 3. The Fox
Race 9—1. Terribly One 2. Hammerhead 3. Green Buck 4. Belle D Amour 5. Lucky Choice
Race 10—1. Golden Eagle 2. Sky Hawk 3. Speed Master
Race 11—1. Charisma 2. El Condor 3. Burning Light 4. Freshman/Baby My Beloved 5. Wendy's Pride
Race 12—1. Be Happy 2. Pasikatera 3. Be Ready 4. Pep Up 5. Nervioso
Race 13—1. Padron Real 2. Houdini 3. Dragon Heart 4. Slew's Ecstasy 5. Lady Witty
Race 14—1. Prince of Africa 2. Maid of Kalibo 3. Halifax 4. Santa Fe 5. Morning Glory

Mobiline, Alaska, Tanduay play crucial games

PBA STANDINGS

	W	L		W	L
Shell	9	5	Ginebra	6	7
SMB	8	5	Alaska	6	7
Pop Cola	8	5	Mobiline	6	7
Purefoods	8	6	Tanduay	5	8
Red Bull	7	6	Sta. Lucia	3	10

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
4:15 p.m.—Mobiline vs SMB
6:30 p.m.—Tanduay vs Alaska

WHILE Mobiline and Alaska dream of more wins, Tanduay plans to stay afloat when all three see action today in the PBA All-Filipino Cup quarterfinals at the Araneta Coliseum.

Though both Mobiline and Alaska had already entered the next round, their ticket to the Top Four is to beat their quarterfinal opponents twice.

The Phone Pals will take on San Miguel Beer at 4;15 p.m.; SMB had already earned a twice-to-beat incentive in the Top Four. The 6:30 mainer pits the Aces against the Tanduay Rhummasters, who are struggling to gain a sudden death for the last quarterfinal berth.

Tanduay's advance will substantially hinge on the other lower-placed teams absorbing more defeats.

Mobiline is fresh from a 77-54 rout of league-leader Shell, and that should give the Phone Pals the boost to defeat the Beermen.

Only eight teams will advance to the quarterfinals, with SMB, Shell, Purefoods and Pop Cola already assured of the twice-to-beat incentive.

The quarterfinals format calls for No. 1 battling No. 8, No. 2 taking on No. 7, No. 3 facing No. 6 and No. 4 meeting No. 5.

The pairings will be known on April 11.

Meanwhile, Ginebra San Miguel and Sta. Lucia have reportedly started scouting for their imports in the next conference. Ginebra was talking to Kelvin Gibbs of Pepperdine University while Sta. Lucia was keen on hiring the 6-foot-8 Kevin Freeman.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

GOLF: Senior PGA - Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf, Second Round at 9:30 a.m. on Star Sports
LPGA Nabisco Championship, Second Round at 1:30 p.m. on ESPN
Augusta Masters 2001, Day Three Highlights at 10:30 p.m. (r-tomorrow at 3 a.m.), Day Three at 6 p.m. (r), Final Day Preview tomorrow at 3:30 a.m., Final Day tomorrow at 4 a.m. on Star Sports
Golfglobe 2001 at 5:30 p.m. on Star Sports
TENNIS: ATP Tennis Show at 7:30 p.m. on ESPN
BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 7 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
BOXING: Ross-Mclarnin - The Trilogy at 12 noon (r) on ESPN
Friday Night Fights at 11 p.m. on ESPN
TRACK AND FIELD: IAAF World Indoor Championships 2001 (Lisbon), Highlights at 9 a.m. (r) on ESPN
MOTOR SPORTS: Motorsport Asia at 8 a.m. (r) on ESPN

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Mitsubishi LG2H Grader
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Fuso Fighter Transit Mixer
Isuzu Forward w/ alum. side
Nissan Caravan Van
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Sunday SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▣ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Lerio wins but Brin loses

HAVANA, Cuba—Arlan Lerio scored a victory over a Guatemalan foe but Romeo Brin wasn't as lucky, bowing to his Cuban opponent Friday night in the Cordova Cardin boxing championships here. Lerio thus assured himself of a bronze medal in the flyweight class.

Hamed battles Barrera

LAS VEGAS—Not given to modesty, the flamboyant Prince Naseem Hamed calls his bout today against Marco Barrera the biggest fight of the 21st century and predicts he will dismantle the fighter from Mexico. The unbeaten Hamed, a Sheffield, England native of Yemeni descent, idolizes Muhammad Ali. His bravado shows it. *AP*

EASY VICTORY OVER THAILAND

RP wins Seaba crown, goes to ABC

BY ROY LUARCA

IT WAS an easy victory for the Philippine men's team all right, but at least there was some semblance of resistance from Thailand.

The Filipinos warded off the three-point bombs of the Thais last night to prevail, 90-73, and retain the 4th South East Asia Basketball Association championship via a sweep at the packed Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

A two-handed slam by Eddie Laure after plucking the ball out of the rim shoved the Filipinos to their biggest spread, 86-63, triggering some fans to make a beeline for the exits as there was but 2:22 left in the game.

Hundreds, however, endured the intense heat and waited for the final buzzer that handed the Metropolitan Basketball Association selection their fifth straight win in the seven-nation tournament.

"This time, my boys proved their worth on the court," said national coach Boyzie Zamar. "I give them full credit for overcoming the problems that hounded us ever since our formation."

Despite bombarding the Filipinos with 11 triples, the closest the Thais could come to within the hosts was at 75-60 in the fourth quarter. For Zamar, however, it posed enough concern for a timeout.

After the break, Romel Adducul, who repeated as MVP in the tournament last held in Manila in 1998, John Ferriols and Chris Calaguio poured in eight points to seal the Thais' fate.

Despite the setback, the Thais will join the Filipinos as the region's representatives to the Asian Basketball Confederation championship slated in July in Shanghai, China.

Earlier, Singapore nipped Indonesia, 81-78, to place third. It was Singapore's highest finish in an international competition in 26 years according to team leader Pang Chin Keong.

Shark rips Osaka, pads card to 4-0

BY DENNIS EROA

FOR A change, Shark Energy Drink didn't need a swirling finish to win in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Yesterday, Shark led most of the way as it crushed out-of-sync Osaka Iridology, 62-41, and stretched its winning run to four games.

The one-sided victory differed from the first three wins of the Power Boosters who needed to overhaul double-digit deficits in the final quarter. Shark's earlier victims were titleholder Welcoat, Ana Freezer and PharmaQuick, respectively.

"The team did the job early," said Shark coach Leo Austria as the Power Boosters behind the guns of Chester Tolomia, Rolly Basilides, Rysal Castro and Rico Limare surged to 52-30 third quarter lead.

In the first game, former Shark defender Cesar Romero sizzled as PharmaQuick frustrated Montaña, 61-52. It was Pharmaquick's first win in three games.

Montaña power forward Francis Zamora hauled down a game-high 13 rebounds, but his efforts went to naught as fellow big men Gilbert Lao and Mel Latoreno failed to contain Pharmaquick's Bruce Dacia and Omanzie Rodriguez in the shaded lane.

Scores:

PHARMAQUICK 61—Dacia 14, Lim 10, Romero 8, Jabar 6, Rodriguez 6, Lapinid 5, Avenido 2, Lanete 2, Canoneo 2, Jones 2 Allad 2.

MONTAÑA 52—Torrente 15, Gottenbos 12, Lao 10, Zamora 6, David 2, Lim 2, Medina 2, Dimaunahan 2, Misola 0.

Quarters:16-13,30-26,45-41,61-52.

SHARK 62—Tolomia 16, Robinson 10, Basilides 9, Castro 9, Ybañez 4, Malabanan 4, Limare 4, Ortega 3, Garcia 3,.

OSAKA 41—Castro 13, Daep 7, Franco 6, Cuan 4, Cabanayan 2, Asmad 2, Ramos 2, Wilson 2, Neil 2, Cabanayan 2.

Quarters:14-15,36-23,52-30,62-41.

REGENT Foods will hold a tryout tomorrow for cagers 25 years old and below from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Dumlao Gym in Mandaluyong City. The team will see action in the 2nd PYBL championships slated later this month. Coaches Boy Galabin and Dayong Mendoza will handle the tryouts.

Kitefest 2001 fires off today

BEAR Brand Kitefest 2001, the biggest and most prestigious kite-flying competition in the country, flies high in Tagbilaran, Bohol today at the Carlos P. Garcia Sports Complex.

Open to all individuals, groups of family members or friends, the event has four categories: Junior Kite for Children, Flat Kite, Geometric Kite and Figure Kite Category.

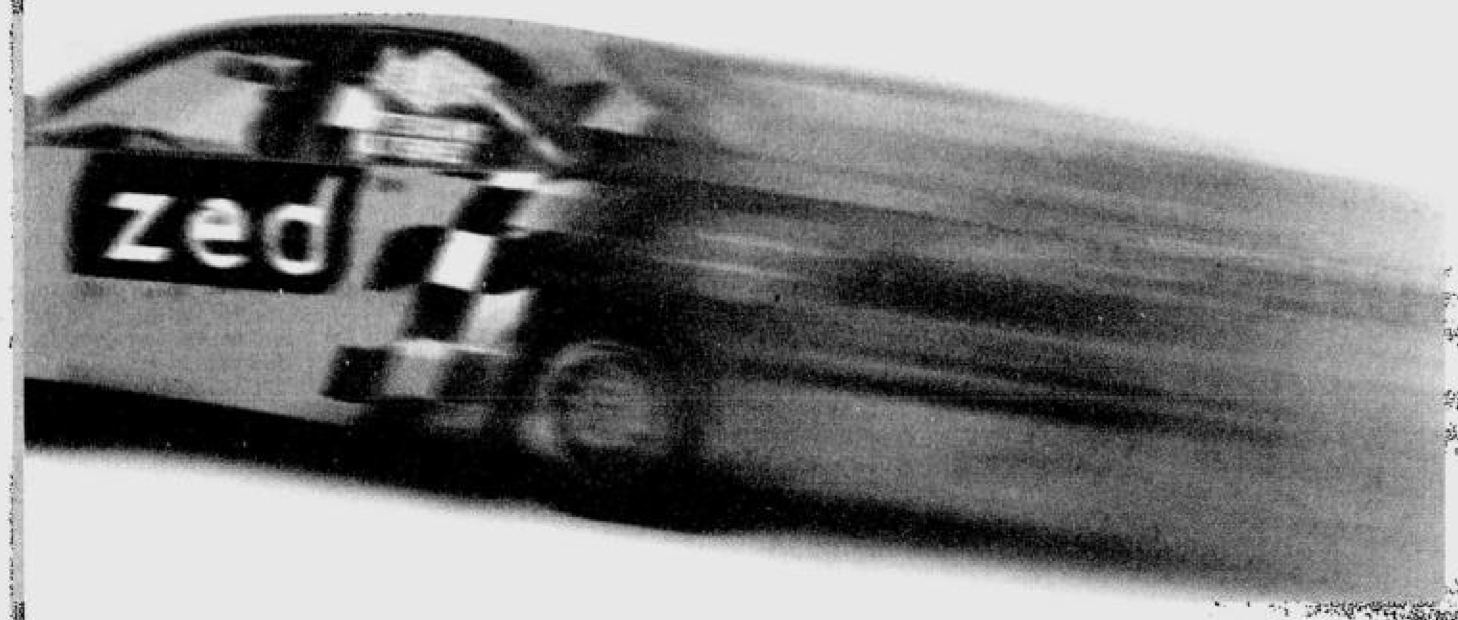
Cash prizes and trophies are at stake in the annual competition, which will also be held in Manila and other key cities in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

3 running events set

THE SALONPAS Run for Clean Elections, a 5-km race, will be held on April 22 in Baguio, April 29 in.Cebu and May 6 at the Quezon Memorial Circle.

Trophies, medals and cash prizes will be given to both winners and runners.

Registration forms are available at Sports House branches in Metro Manila, SM City Cebu, Session Road, Baguio City, and Botak Isports at 131 Kamuning Road, Quezon City, tel. 922-7868.



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- Urban poor groups: We will not oppose Maynilad petition A22
- Tourism department, retailers push RP as shopping heaven A22

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

DILG man stabbed dead

Victim asked suspect for directions to church in QC

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

GETTING lost proved to be fatal for Department of Interior and Local Government employee Cerilo P. Cardenas.

Cardenas, 50, of Governor Ricio M. Grana Street, Bankers Village, Tala, Caloocan City, was stabbed dead when he tried to ask for directions to a Quezon City church where his late cousin lay in state Friday night.

Cardenas was driving his red Mitsubishi Galant (PPR-131) when he stopped and asked for directions from a man who was on board a scooter near the corner of Congressional Avenue and Jupiter Street in Tandang Sora, Quezon City, PO3 Leo Tabuena said.

Cardenas was with his officemates Randy Reyes and three others identified only as Frank, Ding and Johnny, when the stabbing happened at about 10:30 p.m. Friday, Tabuena said.

They allegedly asked the man on the scooter, who was riding in tandem with a woman, where the San Nicholas Church was located.

But the woman allegedly felt insulted by the way Cardenas and his friends asked for directions, Tabuena said.

When Cardenas rolled up the car windows and was about to drive away, the man on the scooter began to throw stones at the Galant, police said.

Cardenas got off the car, confronted the unidentified man and tried to drag him from his scooter, but the unidentified man lunged at him and stabbed him in the chest, Tabuena said.

Reyes took Cardenas to the East Avenue Medical Center where Cardenas was declared dead at 11:10 p.m., Tabuena said.

The victim's body was brought to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for autopsy, he added.

'PALASPAS' MAKERS
Children help their elders make fancy arrangements out of palm fronds in Quiapo, Manila in preparation for today, Palm Sunday, when 'palaspas'-waving Catholics fill churches all over the land to reenact Jesus Christ's triumphant entry to Jerusalem just before the start of his Passion. JESS YUSON

Amok in Makati kills 1, hurts 2

BY ALCUIN PAPA

ONE man was killed and a woman and a boy were injured by a man who went on a rampage in Makati on Friday.

Makati police identified the fatality as Bernard Tamayo, 30, Block 124, Lot 4, South Extension, Barangay Rizal, Makati. Tamayo died while being treated at the Ospital ng Makati for stab wounds in different parts of the body.

The suspect was Tamayo's neighbor, Mario Esteron, according to PO2 Jovenal Barbosa of the Makati City police homicide section.

According to Tamayo's wife Emma, Esteron and his wife Marife, 31, were arguing loudly Friday afternoon when Tamayo stepped in and tried to settle their argument.

However, Tamayo's intervention enraged Esteron, who pulled out a kitchen knife and started to stab him.

Esteron then turned his rage on his own wife Marife and managed to wound her.

He also attacked Tamayo's 13-year-old son Gerald. Neighbors called for help from barangay officials, but Esteron was able to escape, police said.

The neighbors told investigators that Esteron had been using illegal drugs.

SC increases jail term of soldier who killed bookstore owner's son

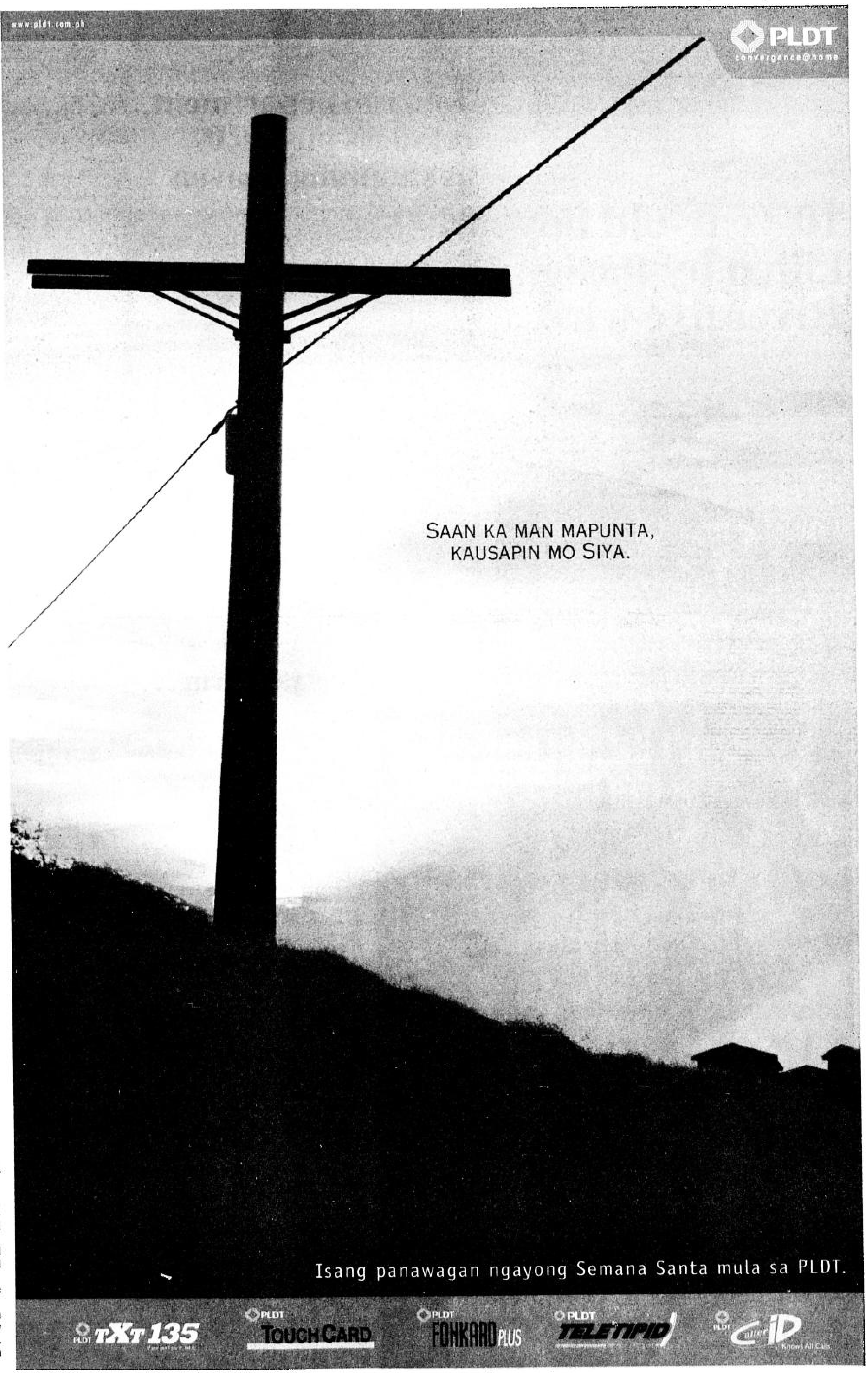
BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE SUPREME COURT has affirmed the conviction of a Philippine Navy captain who killed a 29-year-old son of the owners of the G. Miranda & Sons chain of bookstores during a traffic altercation in 1984.

The high court's First Division upheld the decision of the Makati City Regional Trial Court and the Court of Appeals convicting Capt. Eladio C. Tangan, then a naval intelligence officer.

Tangan was originally sentenced to a minimum of two months and a maximum of two years and four months for killing Generoso "Gene" Miranda III.

SC INCREASES/ A22



SLEEP + NIDO = GROWTH

PINOY TIMES ON-LINE
Eugenia Duran-Apostol, president of Pinoy Times and founding chair of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, relates to representatives of the business sector, media and advertising the origins of Pinoy Times, the "serious tabloid," and how it has global reach now. The occasion was the launch, at New Orleans Restaurant in Makati, of www.pinoytimes.net, the on-line edition of Pinoy Times, and the launch of "Ang Makasaysayang People Power Part 2," a compilation of the first 16 issues of Pinoy Times Special Edition that reported extensively on former President Estrada's hidden wealth and on his mistresses and mansions. With Mrs. Apostol are (from left) Enrique Gonzales of ladobo.com, Pinoy Times' partner in pinoytimes.net; special guest Luis "Chavit" Singson; and Pinoy Times editor in chief Chit Estella.

Urban poor groups: We will not oppose Maynilad petition

REPRESENTATIVES of the urban poor groups being served by Maynilad Water's "Bayan Tubig" program have expressed their full support for a tariff increase if Maynilad's petition for an automatic currency exchange rate adjustment (Cera) is approved.

At the same time, Metro Manila residents who are still without water connections pressed the water company to continue with its expansion program so that they could also avail themselves of Maynilad's water service.

Maynilad officers said this was the feedback they received from the residents of Novaliches, Quezon City, Caloocan City, Sampaloc, Manila and Sucat, Parañaque during dialogues held in these places last week.

Maynilad president Rafael M. Alunan III led company officials in explaining the Cera petition now waiting for government approval. The petition seeks to enable Maynilad to recover P2.7 billion in losses incurred from 1997 to 2000 due to the depreciation of the peso. The heavy losses have forced Maynilad to defer its capital expenditure program for 2001 and 2002.

Barangay chair Precy Villacorta of District 6, Manila, said: "As long as Maynilad performs and delivers its services well, we will not oppose an increase."

Novaliches' Triple M Homeowners Association president Flordeliza Angcao, Sta. Monica barangay captain Baby Balaconda, and Urban Poor Coordinating Council representative Jess Budac thanked Maynilad for the water service they now enjoy and for giving priority to residents of depressed areas.

"The Bayan Tubig program has enabled members of the Triple M Homeowners Association to avail themselves of cheap and safe water," Angcao said.

Angcao and Budac recalled that before Maynilad took over the West Zone's water system, they paid water vendors as much as P190-P300 per cubic meter, or the equivalent of five 200-liter gasoline drums. Now, they only pay P22 for every 10 cubic meters, they added.

Barangay captain Baby Balaconda assured Alunan that they would help combat illegal connections by reporting water pilferage to Maynilad.

However, some urban group representatives expressed their frustration over the company's decision to stop all expansion projects due to financial constraints.

10-year-old boy killed by Pasig River live wire

By Jerome Aning

A 10-YEAR-OLD boy swimming in the Pasig River in Sta. Ana, Manila on Friday afternoon died after he touched an electrified wire tied across a banca to drive away intruders.

Neighbors pulled Alberto Abmeldes Jr., a resident of 2557 J. Posadas St., Punta, Sta. Ana, from the murky river and brought him to the hospital but the boy did not make it.

Chief Insp. Juanito Taluban, head of the Western Police District homicide section, said they would summon the owner of the boat, Ricardo Felix, a retired policeman, to determine his liability in the boy's death.

Investigation showed that the accident happened while Abmeldes and two playmates were swimming in the river around 1:30 p.m. near a small private wharf owned by Felix along Water Lily Street.

One of the boys told case investigator SPO2 Alberto Santiago that Abmeldes swam toward the banca tied to the pier.

The playmate said the body of Abmeldes shook violently when he touched a metal wire strung across the banca.

The playmate said he tried to pull away Abmeldes, but he, too, was jolted by the current and had to let go, leaving Abmeldes sinking in the water.

Alert neighbors quickly jumped into the river, brought the boy to shore and then to the Trinity Hospital, also in Sta. Ana, an hour later. Doctors, however, declared Abmeldes dead.

Chief Insp. Taluban said Felix had repeatedly forbidden boys in the neighborhood from using the wharf as a diving board and riding the banca whenever they went swimming in the river.

Police said that when Felix's warnings failed to stop the boys, he strung a steel wire, which was connected to a live wire, across the boat.

Investigators said that even if the wire had a small voltage, it would have a drastic effect on a wet body.

Tourism department, retailers push RP as shopping heaven

By Jerome Aning

SHOPPING malls and even *tiangges* (bazaars) in Divisoria and Baclaran may soon compete with natural and historical sites as favorite destinations of foreign tourists visiting the Philippines.

Having realized this, the Department of Tourism has coordinated with the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) in coming up with "fresh approaches" in making the country "a shopping paradise in Asia," rivaling Hong Kong, Singapore and Dubai.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon revealed this when he spoke at a PRA convention at the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel in Mandaluyong City last week.

Gordon urged private tourism agencies and tourism-related companies to include shopping components in their travel packages.

"The Philippines has a kaleidoscope of shopping experiences, all of which provide value for money," Gordon said. "Our visitors are delighted both by our gargantuan malls and our *tiangges* which form part of the daily public backdrop.

"Sales personnel deal with our visitors up close. They have the power to strengthen or negate our strides in tourism promotions through their relationships with tourists," he added.

GORDON

The tourism chief also called on PRA members to develop a "culture of tourism" in their establishments.

Gordon noted an increase in the number of Japanese working women and people from the Middle East coming to the country to shop. He also cited the importance of stores making shopping easy for tourists by putting up signs in languages that the visitors can understand.

Tourism officials earlier presented to Gordon their proposals to update travel packages currently being sold by travel agencies, such as the Edsa Spirit and the Intramuros-Malate-Chinatown packages for Metro Manila.

SC increases jail term . . .

(From page A21)

But Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., who chairs the SC's First Division, found the penalty too light for such an offense.

The high court increased Tangan's sentence from a minimum of six years and one day to a maximum of 14 years and eight months.

Davide said the mitigating circumstances of incomplete self-defense, sufficient provocation and passion were absent.

Tangan's lawyers used these mitigating circumstances to force the lower court to lower his sentence. The trial court appreciated the mitigating circumstances and issued a sentence in Tangan's favor.

But Davide said Tangan's acts "were done in the spirit of revenge and lawlessness for which no mitigating circumstance of passion (and) of obfuscation can arise."

The ruling was promulgated as early as March 23. But justice reporters obtained a copy of the decision only yesterday.

Court records showed Tangan shot Miranda, an optometrist, during a traffic altercation on Roxas Boulevard in Manila on Dec. 1, 1984.

The argument started when Miranda tried to avoid firecrackers thrown in the path of his car, which forced him to swerve to the right and cut Tangan's path.

An angry Tangan alighted from his car armed with a .38 caliber revolver. A scuffle ensued when Miranda and his uncle Manuel tried to wrestle the gun from the navy officer.

Tangan shot Miranda at point-blank range.

During the trial, Tangan claimed he did not intend to shoot Miranda, saying it was accidental because Miranda and his uncle tried to wrest the gun away from him.

Tangan claimed that Miranda and his uncle provoked and intimidated him with invectives and insults.

But the Supreme Court said that, based on the bullet's path and point of exit, Miranda and the assailant were facing each other when the gun was fired.

"These findings disprove Tangan's claim of accidental shooting," the high court said. "A revolver is not prone to accidental firing because of the nature of its mechanism, unless it was first cocked and pressure was exerted on the trigger. If it was uncocked, then considerable pressure had to be applied on the trigger to fire the revolver."

Also, the exchange of invectives, no matter how objectionable, could not be considered unlawful aggression, the court said.

It said that assuming that the blowing of horns, cutting of lanes and overtaking were "acts of provocation," they were not enough to "excite" a person to commit a wrong.

"Having caused the fatal wound, Tangan is responsible for all the consequences of his felonious act," the court said. "He brought out the gun, wrestled with the Mirandas but, anticipating that the gun may be taken from him, he fired and fled."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, April 8, 2001
Palm Sunday

1st Reading: **Is 50:4-7**

The Lord Yahweh has taught me so I speak as his disciple and I know how to sustain the weary. Morning after morning he wakes me up to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord Yahweh has opened my ear. I have not rebelled, nor have I withdrawn.

I offered my back to those who strike me, my cheeks to those who pulled my beard; neither did I shield my face from blows, spittle and disgrace. I have not despaired, for the Lord Yahweh comes to my help.

So, like a flint I set my face, knowing that I will not be disgraced.

2nd Reading: **Phil 2:6-11**

Though being divine in nature, he did not claim in fact equality with God, but emptied himself, taking on the nature of a servant, made in human likeness, and in his appearance found as a man. He humbled himself by being obedient to death, death on the cross.

That is why God exalted him and gave him the Name which outshines all names, so that at the Name of Jesus all knees should bend in heaven, on earth and among the dead, and all tongues proclaim that Christ Jesus is the Lord to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel: **Lk 23:1-49**

The whole council rose and brought Jesus to Pilate. They gave their accusation: "We found this man subverting our nation, opposing payment of taxes to Caesar, and claiming to be Christ the king."

Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "You said so." Turning to the chief priests and the crowd, Pilate said, "I find no basis for a case against this man." But they insisted, "All the country of the Jews is being stirred up with his teaching. He began in Galilee and now he has come all the way here."

When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man was a Galilean. Finding the accused to come under Herod's jurisdiction, Pilate sent Jesus over to Herod who happened to be in Jerusalem at that time.

Herod was delighted to have Jesus before him now; for a long time he had wanted to see him because of the reports about him, and he was hoping to see Jesus work some miracle. He piled up question upon question, but got no reply from Jesus.

All the while the chief priests and the scribes remained standing there, vehemently pressing their accusations. Finally, Herod ridiculed him and with his guards mocked him. And when he had put a rich cloak on him, he sent him back to Pilate. Pilate and Herod who were enemies before, became friends from that day.

Pilate then called together the chief priests and the elders before all the people, and said to them, "You have brought this man before me and accused him of subversion. In your presence I have examined him and found no basis for your charges. And neither has Herod, for he sent him back to me. It is quite clear that this man has done nothing that deserves a death sentence. I will therefore have him scourged and then release him." (On the Passover Pilate had to release a prisoner.)

Howling as one man, they protested: "No! Away with this man! Release Barabbas instead." This man had been thrown into prison for an uprising in the city and for murder.

Since Pilate wanted to release Jesus, he appealed to the crowd once more, but they shouted back, "To the cross with him! To the cross!" A third time Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? Since no crime deserving death has been proved, I shall have him scourged and let him go."

But they went on shouting and demanding that Jesus be crucified, and their shouts grew louder. So Pilate decided to pass the sentence they demanded. He released the man they asked for, the one who was in prison for rebellion and murder, and he delivered Jesus in accordance with their wishes.

When they led Jesus away, they seized Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the fields, and laid the cross on him, to carry it behind Jesus.

A large crowd of people followed him; among them were women beating their breast and wailing for him, but Jesus turned to them and said, "Women of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, weep rather for yourselves and for your children. For the days are coming when people will say: 'Happy are the women without child! Happy are those who have not given birth or nursed a child! And they will say to the mountains: *Fall on us! And to the hills: Cover us!*" For if this is the lot of the green wood, what will happen to the dry?"

Along with Jesus, two criminals also were led out to be executed. There at the place called The Skull he was crucified together with the criminals—one on his right and another on his left. (Jesus said, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do.") And the guards *cast lots to divide his clothes among themselves.*

The people stood by watching. As for the rulers, they jeered at him, saying to one another, "Let the man who saved others now save himself, for he is the Messiah, the chosen one of God!"

The soldiers also mocked him and when they drew near to offer him bitter wine, they said, "So you are the king of the Jews? Free yourself!" For above him was an inscription which read, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals hanging with Jesus insulted him, "So you are the Messiah? Save yourself and us as well!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Have you no fear of God, you who received the same sentence as he did? For us it is just: this is payment for what we have done. But this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus replied, "Truly, you will be with me today in paradise."

It was now about noon. The sun was hidden and darkness came over the whole land until mid-afternoon; and at that time the curtain of the Sanctuary was torn in two. Then Jesus gave a loud cry, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." And saying that, he gave up his spirit.

The captain on seeing what had happened, acknowledged the hand of God. He said, "Surely this was an upright man." And all the people who had gathered to watch the spectacle, as soon as they saw what had happened went home beating their breasts. Only those who knew Jesus stood at a distance, especially the women who had followed him from Galilee; they witnessed all this.

Commentary:

Does the death of an innocent one ever disturb us? In a country with a highly fallible system of justice, innocent people do die. In the passion according to Luke, Jesus is consistently presented as the innocent one, who has done no wrong. Yet due to devious human malice he was put to death. He stands, therefore, for the many innocent ones, who are victims of unjust and manipulative systems of justice. But such dastardly act is not the final word. The captain's confession attests to the anticipated response of God to Jesus, whose sole hope of vindication was in God's hands. Where else can we rely in the face of a fallible system of justice that metes capital punishment?

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Treachery—Treachery cannot be considered against the appellants. For treachery to be present, two conditions must concur: (1) the employment of means of execution that gives the person attacked no opportunity to defend himself or retaliate; and (2) the deliberate and conscious adoption of the means employed. The witness did not see the inception of the assault on the victim. When he reached the crime scene, the victim was already sprawled on the ground, face up, moaning and heaving a faint sigh while appellants were surrounding her. Appellant was then in the process of inserting the cassava trunk inside the genitalia of the victim. Absent any particulars as to the manner in which the aggression commenced or how the act that resulted in the death of the victim unfolded, treachery cannot be appreciated. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Puno, First Division, People v. Bonito, G.R. No. 128002, October 10, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

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PIDO WITH TAKE ONE

Personal experiences, moving memories

By Marinel R. Cruz

THEY went up and down rough roads and stumbled several times. It surely has been a long but fruitful journey for the group Pido with Take One. And the journey is far from over.

After five years of hard work, the six members of the ensemble beamed with pride when they finally launched their self-titled album in a press conference on Mar. 27 at the MCA Universal office.

Elation radiated from the faces of Pido (lead vocals), Eva Poon (lead vocals), Tonet Lipana (guitarist), Gino Cruz (keyboards player), Benji Ijiran (drummer) and Marlowe Mata (bassist) as they talked about their 13-track album.

Pido said the carrier single, "Bakit 'Di Mo Pansin," speaks of the pain of an unrequited love. "It's about a relationship that will not really work because it is one-sided, but the person doesn't realize that," said the singer whose name the group carries.

"This album is 'us,'" said Gino, who is responsible for four of the songs in the record.

"We are not the type of band that is generic," he said. "The album contains what we hope to become timeless songs."

Gino said the band had a lot of creative control in the making of the album, especially in terms of writing the songs.

All the songs they contributed to the album came from either a personal experience or a known incident that moved them greatly.

Gino said he came to compose the song "I Promise" when he woke up in the middle of the night and had to go to the bathroom. "I was humming a tune repeatedly," he recalled. "I wrote the song right there and then."

Gino wrote "Call Out My Name" after he received an extremely good piece of news about a song he composed for two known pop artists.

"I was able to write 'Bakit 'Di Mo Pansin' because of an experience a close friend of mine had years back," Pido said.

"If I Keep My Heart Out of Sight," a James Taylor original, is a group favorite. Though they did not want to join other musicians who went into revivals, they chose to include this in the album because "we believe that it is a good chance to immortalize such a beautiful song," Pido explained.

The group believes in keeping a balance between giving the crowd what it wants and introducing new tunes. Asked to describe the current music scene, the group is one in saying that "something good is happening to the industry" as shown by the tight and healthy competition among musicians.

Pido advises greenhorns to "open their minds and to always be ready to welcome new and different sounds."

Eva said a regular gig for the band always starts with a prayer. "And after the show, we would sit down and talk about what went wrong," she said.

Eva, being the youngest and the only girl, is the baby of the group. She said her band mates taught her to be more focused on her singing career. "I've been with other bands before and I can say my group now is different in a sense that they are a lot more focused on their craft," she said.

Eva became an official member of the band in February but had already joined them in several gigs. She recounted a disastrous tour in Legazpi City: Because of a delayed

SOME good things are happening to the music industry, the band says, and one of these is their first album.

commercial flight, they had to board a chartered plane just so they could reach the place and perform.

"Everybody was praying," she said. "The ride was so scary."

Gino, who had experienced a mishap on a chartered plane, said he had to break a "vow not to ride again."

"*Nakakapagod ang* experience," Tonet said. "Because of it, I forgot the chords of the song 'The Hurt,'" he said. "And to think I've been playing that song for years."

Eva described being with the group as "barkadahan." When not touring, they like to go swimming and bowling. The group also splurges on studio instruments and Playstation games.

Eva, who majored in Literature in college, indulges on books. Benjie spoils himself by buying clothes for him, his kids and his wife of 16 years.

The band performs every Tuesday at Padi's Point on Mindanao Avenue in Quezon City.

Manila's 'Saigon' is over but Leo Valdez is still at it

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

JUST when you think **Leo Valdez** has given up "Miss Saigon" after earning raves as The Engineer in the recently concluded Philippine production of the British musical, it turns out he will be the character for a long time still.

Leo will do more performances as The Engineer in several other productions of "Miss Saigon" abroad for the next two years.

On April 23 he leaves for Sydney, where he will rehearse for two weeks with the new cast of "Miss Saigon" that will perform in Hong Kong starting May 18.

Ima Castro, who earned a lot of accolade for playing Kim at the CCP production, will alternate with **Didi Magno** for the same role in Hong Kong. Didi previously did the role in Broadway.

On July 26, Leo will move with the same "Miss Saigon" cast to Singapore, where they will perform for two months.

Late this year, he will reprise his role in Manchester, where "Miss Saigon" will be staged for a year, before it moves to Birmingham and Dublin.

"It's a good role, it's a starring role," says Leo of The Engineer, which he first did on the London stage in 1994.

"Sometimes, I am also surprised why I'm still here. But I love the production. My producer, **Cameron McKintosh,** gives me excellent treatment everywhere I go."

But before he leaves, Leo will stage a two-night farewell concert at the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental Manila, April 20 and 21, 9:30 p.m.

"I wanted to just take time off after 'Miss Saigon' here and do nothing," Leo says. "I planned to go to the beach or spend more time with friends as much as I wanted."

But after meeting Mandarin's PR director, **Charisse Chuidian,** Leo accepted the offer to do a benefit show at Captain's Bar.

He says his mother **Anunciation** asked him to do a fund raiser for the Bakyas Evengelical Church in Bacolod, where his parents regularly hear Mass.

"I've been so blessed," Leo says. "It has been a good run of 'Miss Saigon.' This is a perfect way to share what I have."

CHAN. Second Filipino to perform at Bellagio

Before his critically acclaimed performance as The Engineer, Leo gave local theater fans memorable starring roles in theater productions like "Magsimula Ka," "Tales of the Manuvu," "Hindi Kita Malimot," "Rama Hari," "Gomburza" and "Dahil sa 'Yo."

He also did **Jean Valjean** in the Repertory Philippines production of "Les Miserables."

He played The Engineer at the West End in London from 1994 to 1995, and reprised the role in Sydney in 1996, before moving back to London in 1998.

In his Captain's Bar concert, Leo will pay tribute to local musicals and will sing songs like "Magsimula Ka" from the musical of the same title, and "Minsan ang Minahal ay Ako" from "Katy."

He will also do an OPM medley—"Sana Maulit Muli," "Kahit Na," "Mahawi Man ang Ulap," "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin" and "Kahit Isang Saglit."

Joining Leo is **Ima Castro,** with whom he will do the show-stopping duets from the musical—"Sun and Moon" and "Last Night of the World." They will also do their version of the **Andrea Boccelli-Celine Dion** duet, "The Prayer."

Leo, too, will do his pulsating signature "Miss Saigon" number, "American Dream," minus the tilting Cadillac. He will also perform Broadway tunes like "Bring Him Home" from "Les Miserables," "Music of the Night" from "Phantom of the Opera," "This is the Moment" from "Jekyll and Hyde."

Big in Bellagio

HE MAY have conquered New York's Carnegie Hall, which he considers his best achievement in his singing career, but multi-awarded singer-composer **Jose Mari Chan** is proud about his forthcoming performance at the Grand Ballroom of the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas.

"I consider the Bellagio performance as my crowning achievement," Joemari told us on the phone last Wednesday, a day before he left for the United States.

He will fly to Las Vegas this week to perform in an Easter concert at the Bellagio. The show will start at 5 p.m. on April 15 and will have **Verni Varga** and Joemari's daughter **Lisa Chan** as special guests. **Beth Martin** is the musical director.

After **Martin Nievera**, who did a show at the Bellagio in Easter last year, Joemari is only the second Filipino to perform at the posh hotel-casino owned by MGM.

When he returns to Manila, Joemari will start working on his next album for Universal Records.

The multi-platinum record awardee recently finished the new Equitable-PCI Bank commercial now being seen on TV.

OPM wants an apology

THE ORGANISASYON ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit (OPM) has issued a statement on the recent incident involving The CompanY during a dinner performance at the residence of **Jim Weir**, husband of Citibank officer **Kathy Weir**.

The CompanY was invited to perform for guests at the Weir residence in Forbes Park, Makati on March 27. According to The CompanY's **Moy Ortiz**, the evening ended with Mr. Weir insulting and berating The CompanY and then throwing them out of his house.

The OPM wants Mr. Weir to make a public apology.

VALDEZ. Two nights at Captain's Bar

The statement was sent to the INQUIRER by OPM president **Mitch Valdes**.

The statement said: "As an organization involved in the protection of the rights of Filipino singers, we are greatly alarmed by the racist, condescending and discriminatory treatment of the Filipino musical group, The Company, by Jim Weir, an American citizen . . .

"Mr. Weir's outburst was uncalled for, much less provoked or justified. Most certainly, it is ugly behavior for a guest in our country who is here on tolerance and feeds on our people's hospitality.

"At the very least, Mr. Weir should make a public apology for his bigoted conduct, not only out of respect for Filipino singers and performers, but also in keeping with his wife's high standing in the business community.

"The OPM stands four-square behind The CompanY and will support any action that The CompanY will initiate against Mr. Weir, including the conduct of an investigation as to whether Mr. Weir has violated and continues to violate the conditions of his temporary stay in the Philippines."

Rico J's new album has strains of novelty and the Seventies

By FRED L. SAMANTELA

RICO Puno sings Eraserheads music!

That was the original plan for Rico's latest album, "Aliw." Ely Buendia was producing the album and had about four songs for Rico.

But the plans changed. Whatever made Ely change his mind, he ended up recording the songs for his own album.

The story is vague at this point, but there were no animosities. So now we have a new Rico J album produced by Bodjie Dasig, Vehnee Saturno and Nonoy Tan. The work of this new group is just as interesting to listen to as one made by Ely Buendia would have been.

Good that Vehnee Saturno is back. His "Narito" is one of the best songs he has created in a long time, and one of the more commercial ones that still use his formula of employing "hooks" as early as possible. I noticed that this is also true of some other songs in the album by other composers, but Vehnee has perfected it.

One thing with Vehnee is that when he gives you a song or two, you feel like he's parting with some real gems from his music vault. In fact, he is, and they are real treasures.

We heard Rico sing "Narito" live and we liked the song immediately.

Tan produced a song by Lito Camo, "Kay Hirap Mong Limutin," that is amusing and tongue in cheek. This new composer has style and a rather unique sense of humor. His song has a sardonic streak and Rico singing it makes it seem funnier.

Bodjie Dasig and his wife Odette Quesada also produced for this album. Both Bodjie and Odette have formidable music-making credentials, but it just one song—"Sana Dalawa ang Puso Ko"—would have been enough for Bodjie and Rico to like each other.

Bodjie's strong suit are the songs "In Love," which Camo penned, and "'Di Pa Huli," written by new composer Erwin de Cruz. The latter has a lot of soul and rhythm & blues flavor.

Bodjie's "Sorry Ka Na Lang" is rock and roll. "Siguro Mahal Kita," which is dance/upbeat, and "Ganiyan Bang Lahat ang mga Babae," are both novelty numbers. Bodjie gave the album a "band sound" in one or two songs, which is a plus factor for it makes the album more current.

And Rico's voice, the rasp included, sounds younger in these songs.

"Baby ang Ganda Mo" by Boy Christopher is sprinkled with sexual innuendoes and is as here and now as Mystica's songs. I just hope Rico isn't requested to sing this in his campaign sorties in Makati. But then again, knowing Rico . . .

Rico is running for reelection as councilor of the first district in Makati.

"'Di Pa Huli" and "Sabihin Mo sa Akin" have different producers but they almost sound similar in production and execution. These are distinctively pure pop with an R&B flavor showcasing "serious" pop singing. That Rico certainly can still do.

Tan also gave Rico an inspirational song, "Kung Kaya Ko'y Kaya Mo Rin."

At the album launch at the Hard Rock Café, Rico hardly had time to prepare before he sang on stage, as he was busy with his guests. But when called up on stage, he was unflustered and was the picture of confidence and cool as he sang with a band, glancing at his prompter once in a while.

The album has a strain of the '70s Manila sound, too, whether intentional or not, particularly in Bodjie's compositions.

Award-winning music book author and columnist Tom Piazza writes: "To some people, an artist's work is only an avenue by which to get to the real point, which is the artist herself or himself . . . It is a mistake to think that most artists and creative people are trying to express the self; they are more likely trying to complete the self, or even find its opposite."

Ely Buendia may have grown up on the songs of the seventies, and Rico's songs may have even been his road map to manhood, and it's a pity that a Buendia-Puno album didn't happen. Buendia recorded his songs for his own album and we'll never find out how they would sound with another artist like Rico.

MUSIC MAN Rico J. Puno's latest work has a sprinkling of sex and novelty.

Why show biz stars earn more from 'MLM' than from movies or TV

EVER wondered how celebrities could have the luxury of choosing their movie or TV assignments? Or, why are you seeing less of your favorite stars?

The grapevine has it that many of our favorite actors, singers and other entertainers are into multi-level marketing, or MLM.

In the past, successful MLM companies concentrated on selling health and beauty products. Thus, one hears of Bill Velasco pushing some herbal product. Recently, Trina Javier (wife of APO's Danny) was heard to be into gold collections.

They all attest to the fact that they are able to make good money by simply endorsing the products to friends and relatives.

Now comes Jay Manalo, who claimed recently that what he earns from in two months from doing movies he earn in just a week of MLM. Or, what he earns in two weeks of MLM is equivalent to what he makes for doing five movies.

Jay is so enthusiastic with his involvement with prosperity.com.ph and is very aggressive in contacting people he knows to attend "prosperity" seminars that he has earned many times over the amount he invested.

Prosperity.com.ph is a multi-level marketing company that sells websites to celebrities, businessman, organizations and other interested entities. The company hosts and designs the exclusive sites of 40,000 subscribers.

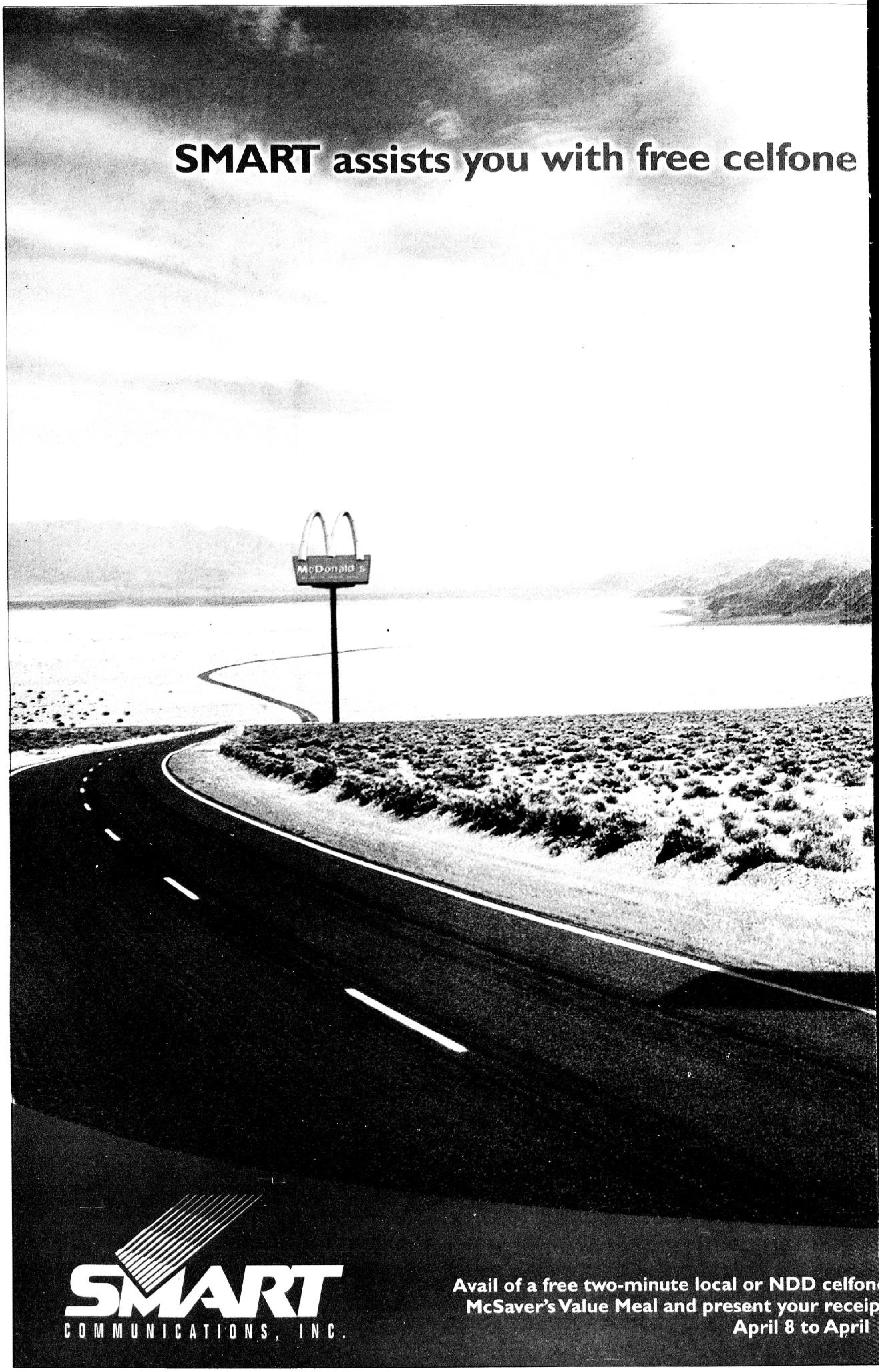
A website offers a celebriity a way to communicate with fans. It also is a powerful promotional and publicity tool. Stars like Dina Bonnevie, Anjanette Abayari, Ruffa Gutierrez and others have had their own websites at a time when it was not yet "in" in the Philippines.

For a celebrity entrepreneur, owning a website offers tremendous opportunities in business and communications. It has become an indispensable prosperity tool. It opens doors to unlimited opportunities because it enables the celebrity to access information critical to his or her business.

They can also do electronic transactions such as e-banking and e-commerce. Through their website, they can shop and pay for goods and services worldwide from the comfort of their own home.

To become a certified website account owner through prosperity.com.ph, one has to pay a subscriber's fee of $294 or its equivalent in local currency. This entitles the account owner to 15 megabytes of web space, tutorial on how to use the Internet and how to surf the worldwide web.

Those who are interested may contact any one of the "prosperous" celebrities mentioned, visit the company's offices at the Tektite Towers in Ortigas Center, or call 636-77-89.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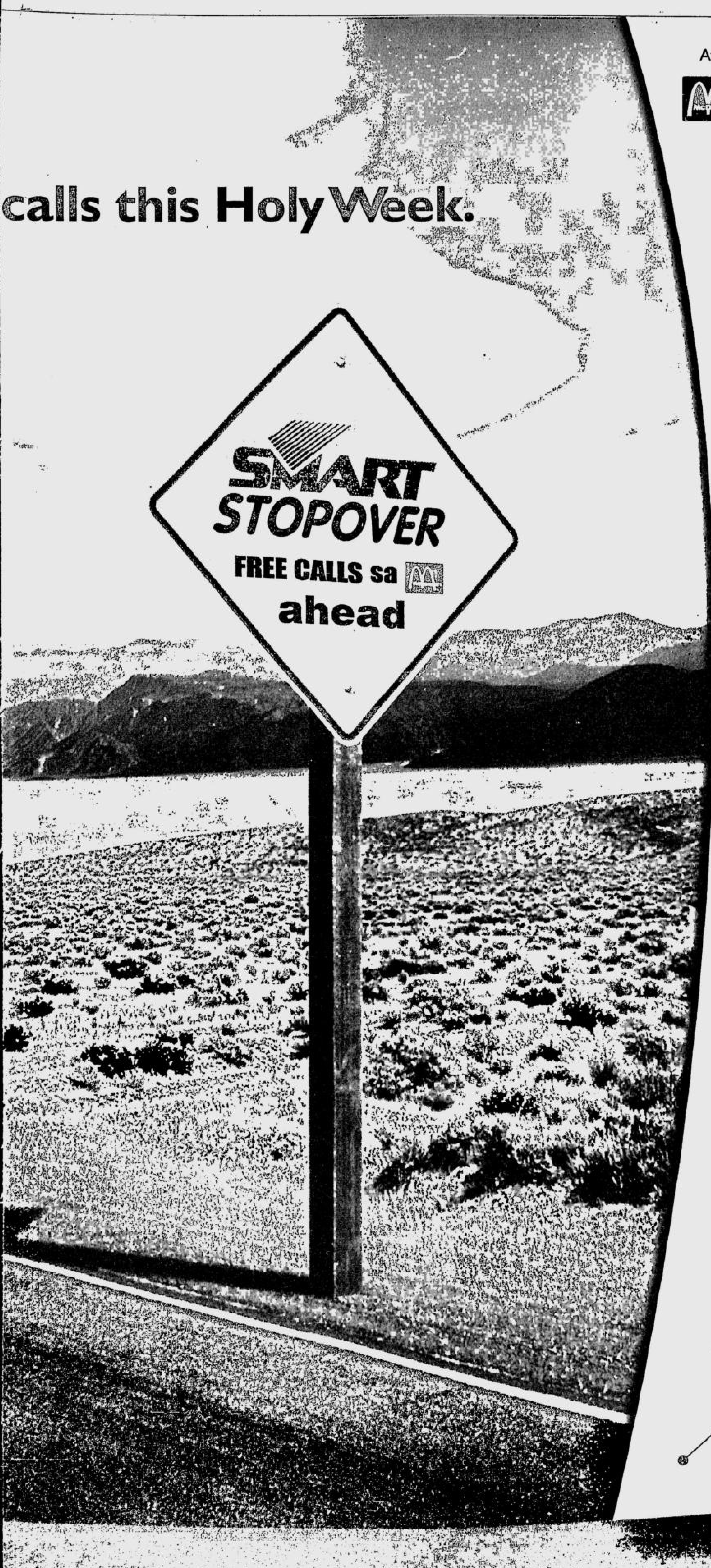

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GMA bares finalists for Metropop 2001

THE COUNTRY'S most prestigious musical competition, the Metropop Song Festival, continues its quest for the best and most original musical creation, giving the Filipino artists the stage to let their talents shine and be given the honor they deserve.

From 1,903 entries, GMA Network Inc. is proud to announce the 12 finalists of Metropop 2001. "Kawikaan" by La Verne Ducut and Catherine Carlos is a song that mirrors the harsh realities of our times.

"Gravity" by Ma. Rachelle Tesoro is a ballad on self-denial.

"Sayonara Smile" by Vincent Wongaiham is a unique ditty on knowing how to fight for oneself.

"Unbelievable" by Dada de Pano-Supnet is an upbeat piece on self-empowerment.

"A Day and A Night More" by Ruth Bagalay and Bonnie Melocoton is a tragic ballad about unrequited love.

"Heaven-Sent" by Dennis Garcia is a charming song that celebrates the magic of finding Mr. Right. "Something I Wrote" by Mon Espia is a heart-rending ensemble about finding closure after a broken relationship.

"Pag-uwi" by Louie Ocampo and Joey Ayala is a patriotic piece that speaks of love and loyalty to one's country.

"I Am Light" by Ruben Lopez Jr. features a unique melody that tells of unwavering courage amidst life's difficulties.

"Ayoko sa Pakipot" by Noel Mahinay is a cautionary song to girls who love to play hard-to-get.

"I See You in Me" by Arnel Sevilla and Alexander Castro is an insightful piece about how everyone's lives are inter-related.

"Destiny" by Ma. Raquel Custodio is a soulful rendition about finding love yet losing it in the end.

Watch out for the 12 outstanding compositions as they vie for the glory and the grand prize of P500,000 in the prestigious musical awards.

Metropop 2001 will aired May 26, Saturday, 9 p.m. on GMA.

Photo workshop

CINEMATOGRAPHER Ariel Reyes will hold a summer photography workshop at the Mary Help of Christians Parish in Better Living, Parañaque, starting April 16 to May.

Reyes is the cinematographer of the critically-acclaimed movie "Ang Kriminal sa Barrio Concepcion" and has done several TV commercials.

He holds a masters in cinematography at the All Union State Film Institute of Cinematography in Moscow, Russia, where he studied under noted Russian filmmakers Vadim Yusof, Oleg Yureyev and Chumak.

Registration is ongoing. For inquiries, call Seller at 776-4249/ 824-3027 or 0919-3564662.

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FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	GLADIATOR
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
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NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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EASTERN	
MAXIM	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
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ODEON	GLADIATOR
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ROBEN	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
TANDEM-1	UHAW SA INIT
TANDEM-2	TOTAL AIKIDO
TIMES	EYE OF BEHOLDER / REMEMBER THE TITANS
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ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
QUEZON-1	UHAW SA INIT
REMAR	SEDUCER
REMAR-2	UHAW SA INIT
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CINEMA-9 (DTS)	THEY NEST
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Louie's THX Cinema will be closed from April 9-13, 2001 in observance of the coming Holy Week
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Love, cruelty and forgiveness

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"MALENA" is a film about an adolescent boy growing up in Sicily during the Second World War. Struggling with his galloping hormones, he falls deeply in love with lovely **Malena**, the wife of an Italian military officer who has been sent off to fight in North Africa.

He does love her with all of his heart, soul and raging libido, but the ironic thing is, Malena doesn't even know he exists. But this doesn't dampen the young swain's ardor—in fact, it intensifies it even more.

A delightful conceit of this movie is the way it uses snippets of old movies to show how the young boy fantasizes over Malena. He's a cowboy rescuing her from Indians, an ardent Tarzan to her trembling Jane, etc.

Another deft touch is the way that the production surrounds its young protagonist with a host of interesting characters, starting with his own mother and father, who slap him around but love him in heaps.

But the movie is much more than just another tale of adolescent thrills and chills. It's really about cruelty, the deadly effects of gossip, the injustice of tradition, and plain people's envy of beautiful creatures like Malena.

These elements start coming to a head when Malena's husband is reported to have died during a battle in South Africa. Without a man, she is perceived to be fair game for all, of the randy bachelors and married men in town—and they are legion.

In fact, one turgid night, two of her suitors fight in public over her. The scandal results in a court case in which Malena's virtue is melodramatically defended by an ugly and smelly lawyer—who wastes no time before trying to get in her pants, too.

As the movie's young protagonist sees all of these men lusting after his dream beloved, his own randy feelings are transformed into a genuine caring, and he assigns himself to be her protector.

He has his work cut out for him because so many people—male and female—either covet Malena or want to run her out of town for being a homewrecker.

Actually, none of this is true, and Malena's imagine affairs are merely the result of her neighbors' fetid and cruel impulses working on overdrive.

This pervasive cruelty finally gets to Malena, and she decides to fulfill the town's worst expectations of her. She reinvents herself as a high-priced courtesan who specializes in pleasuring important people, including Italian and German military officers.

Naturally, when the war ends, vengeful "tradition" takes over and some outraged women beat Malena up and ruthlessly cut off her hair.

Ironically, they blithely overlook some leading townspeople's even worse acts of collaboration, and they continue to move around, unpunished for their crimes.

But the movie still manages a relatively happy ending: years later, Malena's "dead" husband reappears, looks for her, and brings her back to the town. Instead of beating her up once again, the townspeople forgive her, and welcome her back.

She smiles at them gratefully, but we wonder if, in her heart of hearts, she has forgiven them.

Thus does "Malena" take moviegoers through a veritable gamut of issues and emotions, with everything seen through the eyes of the adolescent who loves Malena as much as the town, abuses her. The film tells a story about going from childhoods to adulthood, and invites viewers to group up, as well.

Concert for a cause on TV

ON Easter Sunday (April 15), ABS-CBN Presents features the TV special, "The Magic of Dreams," at 9:30 p.m. It is the product of a partnership between the network, Ayala Foundation and Globe Telecoms.

Hosted by **Pops Fernandez** and **RJ Rosales**, the special features top singers like **Regine Velasquez**, **Jaya**, **Basil Valdez**, **Anna Fegi**, **Lani Misalucha**, **Isay Alvarez**—and a reunited Smokey Mountain (**Geneva Cruz**, **Tony Lambino**, **Jeffrey Hidalgo** and **James Coronel**).

The concert will raise funds for the Center of Excellence, an educational project that provides a good education to underprivileged but bright elementary school children. Musical direction is by Ryan Cayabyab, and Johnny Manahan directs the show.

Gil at Megamall today

TEEN hearthrob **Gil** is back in town to promote his third album, titled "Best of Gil." His new single, "Live Your Dreams," is an upbeat number with a Latin touch.

Today at 5:30 p.m. at the SM Megamall Atrium (Building A), Gil will sign autographs right after the Nickelodeon show. "Best of Gil" is available in CDs and cassettes.

'The Music of Dreams' brings Smokey Mountain together again

REUNITED. Ex-Smokey members (from left) Geneva Cruz, James Coronel, Tony Lambino and Jeffrey Hidalgo sing again as a group.

THEY are best remembered as Ryan Cayabyab's protégés, four teeners who wowed both their countrymen and international audiences with songs about very Filipino issues. Smokey Mountain was a hit in the early Nineties not only because of the natural talent of its members but because their music spoke of environmental concerns ("Paraiso," "Da Coconut Nut"), overseas workers ("Mama") and other social problems.

When the members of the original group went their separate ways, fans eagerly followed their individual careers. They were not disappointed.

Geneva Cruz is now a pop princess. Jeffrey Hidalgo went on to reap awards in international song festivals and had a solo album in 1998. After staying with the new Smokey Mountain for a few years, James Coronel also went solo and came out with a well-received debut album in 1997.

Tony Lambino continued to sing in concerts produced at the Ateneo de Manila University where he pursued his studies.

But the magic that was Smokey Mountain is not to be heard again—until Easter Sunday, on the TV showing of "The Music of Dreams," the concert, on ABS-CBN Channel 2 at 9:30 p.m.

For the first time in almost a decade, the original members of Smokey Mountain are singing together again in the two-hour Easter Sunday special. Held for the benefit of the Center for Excellence in Public Elementary Education (Centex) and co-produced by the Ayala Foundation and ABS-CBN, "The Music of Dreams" is a star-studded concert that aims to raise funds for new Centex campuses for exceptionally bright but less privileged children.

The former Smokey Mountain members share the limelight with other pillars of the entertainment industry: Pops Fernandez as host, and performers Regine Velasquez, Lani Misalucha, Jaya, Agot Isidro, Jolina Magdangal, Isay Alvarez and Ella Mae Saison.

The concert also features a new generation of rising stars, including some Centex children themselves.

BLESS THE CHILD. Jolina Magdangal sings with a Centex student, also in "The Music of Dreams."

Performing for a cause is never an issue with the former Smokey Mountain members. Jeffrey Hidalgo performed for the fund raiser activity of the Knowledge Channel last year. Tony Lambino sang in the tribute concert to Jesuit priest-songwriter Fr. Eduardo Hontiveros.

And so when Ryan Cayabyab presented the idea of a reunion performance in "The Music of Dreams," they were unanimously supportive.

What makes their act more special is that they are also performing with Kaya, the new singing group also mentored by Cayabyab. Their voices finer with age and experience, the Smokey Mountain members blend perfectly with the younger talents of Kaya. The two groups' rendition of "Paraiso" is definitely the most applauded number in the show.

In "The Music of Dreams" this Easter Sunday, Geneva, James, Jeffrey and Tony make sweet music again, and it is made sweeter by the children's cause.

One-man drama on Home

RETREATS. The beach. Baguio. These are most people's favorite activities during Holy Week.

Watching TV is not normally among the favorites because this is the only time of the year when TV and radio stations are off the air. That is, until the advent of cable television.

One must-see program this season is "The Passion" by Radix.

"The Passion" by Radix is a riveting depiction of our Lord's final moments leading up to His crucifixion and death. The one-man drama features the critically acclaimed performance by actor Doug Barry and serves as a perfect meditation piece in the days leading up to Good Friday.

It premieres today, Palm Sunday, at 4 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday, 7 a.m./p.m.; Holy Wednesday, 10 a.m./p.m.; Maundy Thursday, 8:30 a.m./p.m.; and Good Friday, 4 a.m./p.m.

For more information on Familyland Television Network, visit the website: www.familyland.org, e mail:asia@familyland.org, write the Apostolate for Family Consecration, PO Box 0026, Las Piñas City, or call 871-44-39 and 871-44-40.

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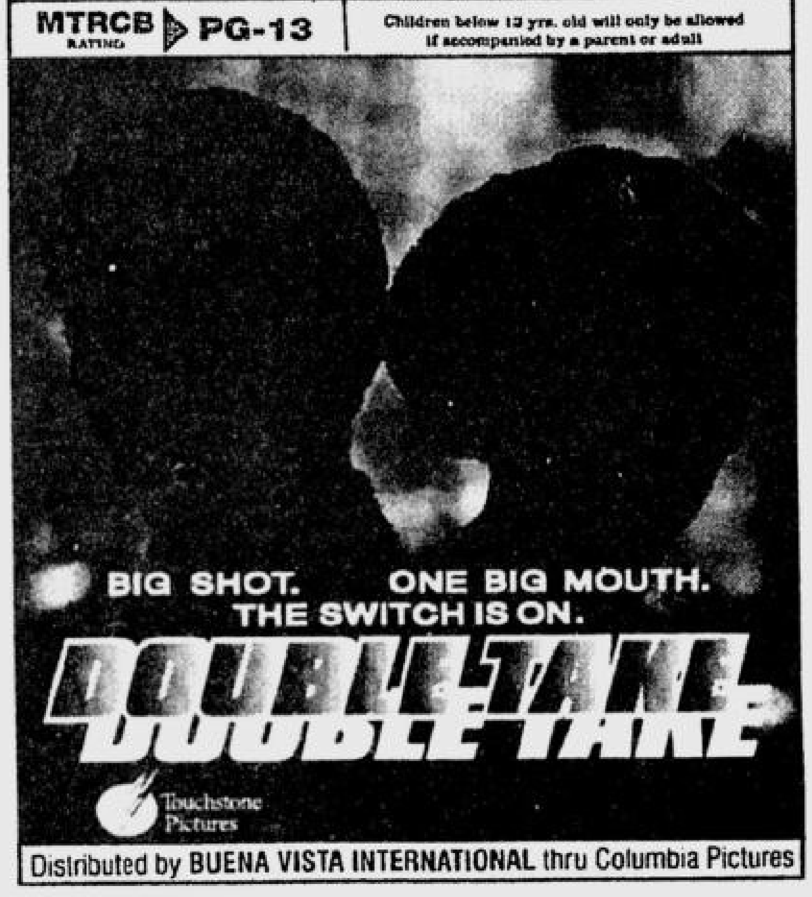

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4	5	6
CHOCOLAT - P 13 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10	ALMOST FAMOUS - R 18 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15	SAVE THE LAST DANCE - P 13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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@ Las Vegas Film Critics Society Awards 2000

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

STAGED or not, "Survivor 2," composed of these members, is another certified hit.

US policewoman voted out of 'Survivor 2' and survives it

BY ALCUIN PAPA

'MAD DOG' Hershey says she's not mad at the teammates who voted her out.

SIXTEEN strangers grouped into two teams are thrown in the Australian Outback. They must get along, outwit each other and survive tough physical challenges together while fending off hunger, fatigue, boredom and vicious intrigue.

At the end of the show, those who survived the day's hazards would vote each other out. The last one standing would win a million dollars.

Pretty cool concept, and very compelling, too. After all, there's nothing like a dose of real-life, greed-driven intrigue to spice up a couch potato's vegetative life.

Critics have said "Survivor 2: The Australian Outback" was staged and all the situations were made up. Still, there's no doubt the show has become a certified hit, taking the United States by storm because of its unique concept.

It has developed quite a cult following in the Philippines, too, for its innovative physical challenges, politics and drama. Just think of "Takeshi's Castle" with a gritty, melodramatic twist.

Maralyn "Mad Dog" Hershey was one of those who slugged it out in the Outback.

Hershey, 52, is a police officer and has been one for 26 years. She holds an impressive record with the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, D.C.

She was one of the first women to be assigned on street patrol. And since Washington has one of the highest crime rates in the US, Hershey has dealt with felons of every imaginable kind.

She has been in numerous life-threatening situations. Once, she even broke her hand while trying to grab a suspect off a moving vehicle.

But in the Outback, she was the third member of the Ogakor tribe voted out of the show.

Make no mistake, Hershey has the will, skills and strength to go that extra mile.

But she never thought that a good old "stab in the back" would run her out of the show. Hershey said it was hard to deal with the fact that her supposed friends voted her out.

"I could not believe that, I was momentarily hurt," Hershey told a group of Asian reporters in a conference phone interview. "I was really physically and mentally ready to go the distance but it wasn't meant to be."

But Hershey never let the "betrayal" get in the way of her desire to keep her teammates as friends.

"I'm still friends with most of them," Hershey said. "I harbor no ill will. The bottom line is, it was a game. I harbor no bitterness that would discolor that healthy experience."

On the whole, Hershey's experience as a law enforcer was invaluable to her in the Outback.

"Regardless of the harsh realities of life, it's very difficult to change," she said. "I went into this knowing it was just a game. However, there were some contestants who were not above doing some things."

Competition between the two teams has been fierce in the course of the show.

Asked about Kucha, the other team, Hershey said, "they took better care of their elders."

She even joked that her team suffered from "the curse of the Mad Dog."

That was because, right after they voted her out, the team's food situation deteriorated. In short, they starved.

"Some of them (her former teammates) had no meat on their bones," she said. "When you don't eat, your muscle mass will be eaten away. Having all that middle-aged fat was an asset. I actually felt I was getting stronger than everyone else as the game dragged on. Some of them were getting exhausted."

Hershey said she herself lost 20 pounds while she was out there.

Nonetheless, Hershey had a splendid time.

"What you're all watching now is the edited version. There were hundreds of hours and a lot of things we said and did, it was just fabulous. I'm sure the editors had a hard time editing (the show). For example, at night, we had something like an amateur hour around campfire singing songs."

But even if she lasted only nine days, Hershey could not believe what she just went through.

"(When I was voted out) I was overcome with the feeling of grace. I was given a gift. I lived and loved every single second of it and I am very grateful for the time."

What's next for Hershey? While she doesn't consider herself a star just yet, she will let "things unfold." Having been voted out of the show means she can go back to what she said were her "greatest passions in life: animals, singing, people."

Hershey said she has a modest menagerie consisting of a horse, a dog, two goats and a donkey.

For her, being on the show reaffirmed her belief on what she considered essential to survival: "to live and be loved."

"Sometimes, I still wish I was still there and I still believe you can win the game with integrity," she said.

"This is all just so unbelievable, but I can feel my whole life changing. I have no idea where this is going to lead me, but I think I'm going to have a second chance at life."

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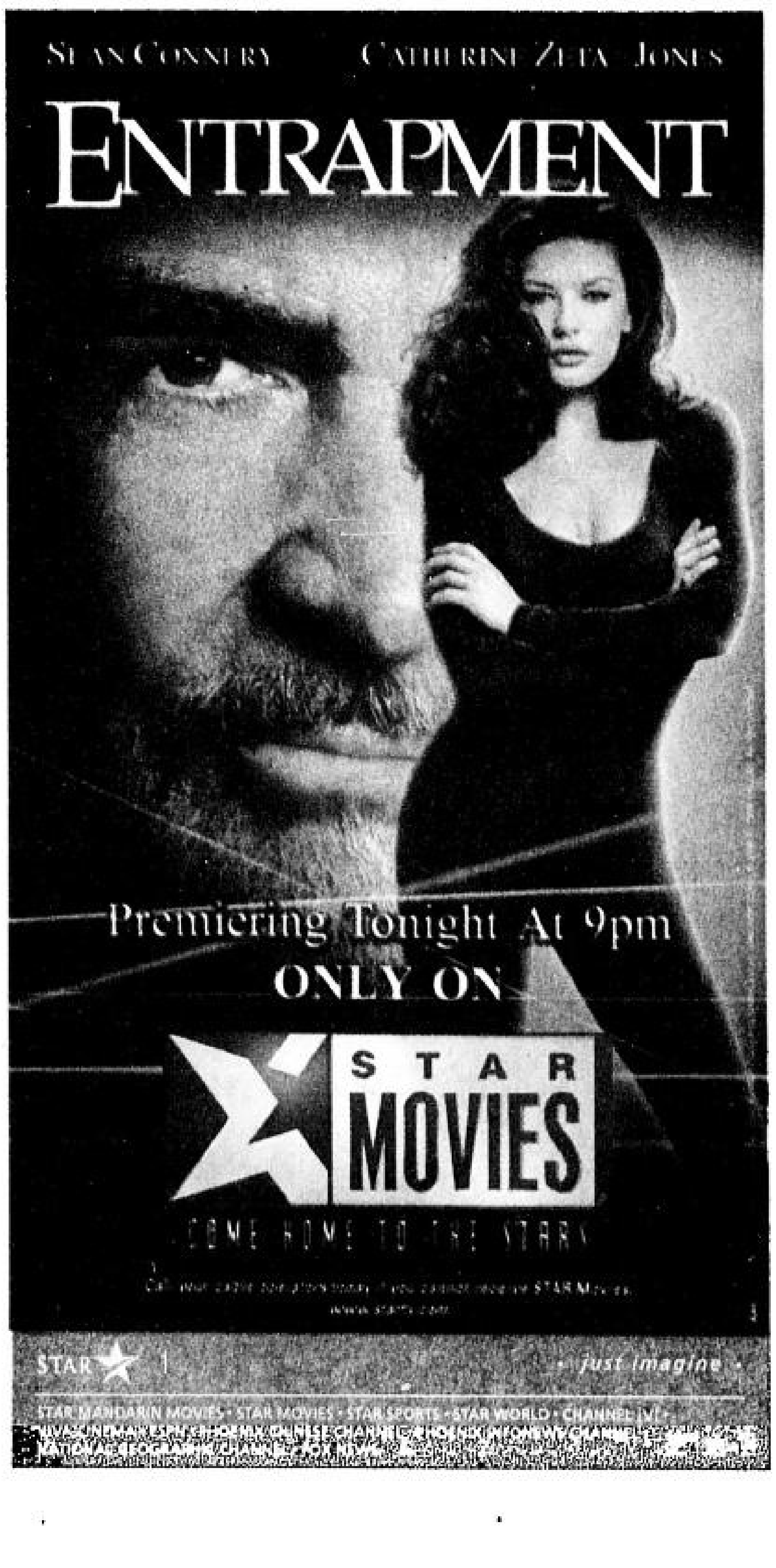

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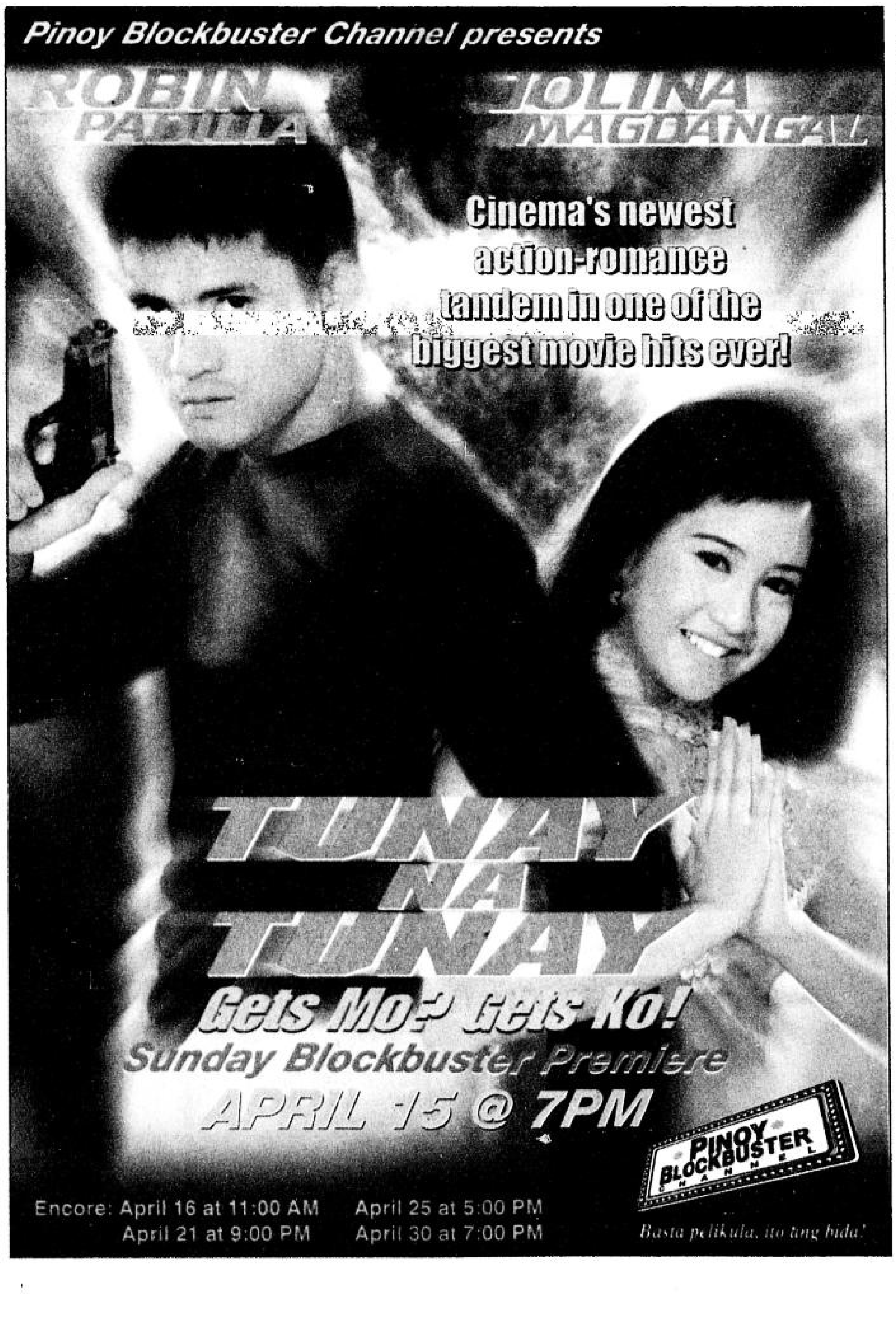

Pinoy Blockbuster Channel presents
ROBIN PADILLA
JOLINA MAGDANGAL
Cinema's newest action-romance tandem in one of the biggest movie hits ever!
TUNAY NA TUNAY
Gets Mo? Gets Ko!
Sunday Blockbuster Premiere
APRIL 15 @ 7PM
Encore: April 16 at 11:00 AM April 25 at 5:00 PM
April 21 at 9:00 PM April 30 at 7:00 PM
PINOY BLOCKBUSTER CHANNEL
Basta pelikula, ito ang bida!

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NATIONAL EDITION

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Republic of the Phiippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
SPECIAL ZONE OF PEACE & DEVELOPMENT
SOCIAL FUND
MANAGEMENT OFFICE

The Special Zone of Peace and Development (SZOPAD) Social Fund Management Office has been established by virtue of Executive Order No. 445 by the President of the Philippines to finance and implement small-scale social and economic infrastructure projects in the SZOPAD. The Fund's headquarters is located in Zamboanga City.

The SZOPAD Social Fund is seeking applicants with suitable qualifications and good moral character to fill-in the positions given below. A promising compensation package is offered to attract highly qualified applicants.

Media Relations Officer

- Graduate of B.S. in Mass or Development Communications or any related field from a reputable school
- Minimum of 4 years experience in print and broadcast media work
- Extensive experience in public relations work with wide tri-media contacts
- Extensive experience in developing promotional materials and office publication
- Computer literate especially in graphics and lay-out programs
- Knowledge in community organizing and rural development work is an added advantage
- Familiarity with the SZOPAD area and able to speak the local dialect is an advantage
- Willing and physically fit to travel within the SZOPAD area
- With high level of initiative, result-oriented and can work long hours with minimum supervision

Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist

- Graduate of B.S. in Civil Engineering, Economics, Developmental Studies or any Social Science course
- Minimum of 3 years in monitoring and evaluation of infrastructure projects, and data analysis and documentation
- Adequate knowledge and/or experience in project management and construction supervision/monitoring
- Good technical writing and communication skills
- Computer literate with fair knowledge in management information system, database management system

Project Screening Officer

- Graduate of B.S. in Civil Engineering (preferably a licensed Civil Engineer), Economics, Sociology or any Social Science course
- Minimum of 3 years experience in evaluation/screening of infrastructure projects and a minimum of 2 years experience in civil engineering work and, design and appraisal of infrastructure projects
- Minimum of 2 years experience in community organizing and related rural development work
- Familiar with the SZOPAD area and able to speak the local dialects
- With good technical writing and communication skills
- Computer literate (minimum: Word and Excel applications)

Promotions Officer

- Graduate of B.S. in Mass or Development Communications or any related field
- Minimum of 2 years experience in the conduct of information and education campaigns, community organizing and rural development work
- Extensive experience in community relations work
- Extensive experience in developing promotional materials and office publication
- Fair experience and adequate network in print and broadcast media
- Familiar with the SZOPAD area and able to speak the local dialects
- Willing and physically fit to travel within the SZOPAD area
- Computer literate especially in graphics and lay-out programs

Community Organizer

- Graduate in B.S. in Community Development, Public Administration, Sociology or any related field
- Minimum of 3 years experience in community organizing/community development work and in multi-sectoral coordination and networking
- Substantial knowledge of participatory processes
- Minimum 2 years experience in the conduct of seminars, workshops, trainings
- Familiar with the SZOPAD area and able to speak the local dialects
- Willing and physically fit to travel within the SZOPAD area
- Good technical writing and communication skills
- Computer literate (minimum: Word and Excel applications)

Appraiser

- Graduate of B.S. in Civil Engineering (preferably a licensed Civil Engineer), Economics, Sociology or any Social Science course
- Minimum of 3 years experience in construction and supervision of civil engineering works (i.e. buildings, bridges, roads, water supply and irrigation systems, drainage system)
- Minimum of 2 years experience in the technical, social and economic evaluation of infrastructure projects
- Substantial knowledge in cost estimate
- Adequate background in structural design
- Experience in community organizing and related rural development work is desired
- Good technical writing skills
- Computer literate (minimum: Word and Excel applications)
- Familiar with the SZOPAD area and able to speak the local dialects
- Willing and physically fit to travel within the SZOPAD area

Structural/Design Engineer

- Graduate of B.S. in Civil Engineering preferably a licensed Civil Engineer
- Minimum of 3 years experience in structural design of buildings, bridges, roads, water supply and irrigation systems, drainage and slope protection systems and other structures; actual experience in the design of gravity-flow communal water supply system is an advantage
- Substantial knowledge in cost estimate
- Adequate experience in construction and supervision of civil engineering works
- Good technical writing skills
- Computer literate (minimum: Word and Excel applications)

Internal Supervisor

- Graduate of B.S. in Civil Engineering preferably a licensed Civil Engineer
- Minimum of 5 years experience in construction or at least 3 years in structural design
- Experience in community organizing and related rural development work is desired
- Good technical writing skills
- Computer literate (minimum: Word and Excel applications)
- Familiar with the SZOPAD area and able to speak the local dialects
- Willing and physically fit to travel within the SZOPAD area

Technical Officer/Engineer IV

- Graduate of B.S. in Civil Engineering preferably a licensed Civil Engineer
- Minimum of 2 years experience in construction or 1 year in structural design
- Computer literate (minimum: Word and Excel applications)
- Familiar with the SZOPAD area and able to speak the local dialects
- Willing and physically fit to travel around the SZOPAD area

Legal Officer

- Lawyer/R.A. 1080
- Minimum of 5 years experience in law practice and minimum of 3 years experience in legal management and supervision
- Minimum of 2 years experience in adjudication, management and/or handling of land tenure disputes/cases
- Substantial knowledge in contract management
- Computer literate (minimum: Word and Excel applications)
- Familiar with the SZOPAD area and able to speak the local dialects

*Interested individuals who have met the minimum requirements for the positions may send their application letter with comprehensive resume to include character references from previous employment, recent picture and transcript of records to the address given below on or before **April 16, 2001**. Only applicants short-listed for the interview will be contacted on or before **April 20, 2001**.*

**The Chief Administrative Officer
SZOPAD Social Fund Management Office
3rd Floor VHW (Land Bank) Building
Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City
TeleFax No. (062) 991-9410**

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN SINGAPORE!!!

SENIOR RETAIL ASSOCIATES FOR FASHION SHOP

- Male or female, 22 to 30 years old
- Pleasant personality, trendy, fashionable and friendly
- Customer Service skills
- Bachelor Degree from good universities with major in Business, Commerce or English
- At least 1 to 2 years working experience in Customer Relations Management area
- Computer literate and able to operate Microsoft Windows Applications
- Able to speak fluent English

SENIOR RETAIL ASSOCIATES FOR TRAVEL SHOP

- Male or female, 22 to 40 years old
- Pleasant and friendly personality, mature, stable and conventional
- Customer Service skills
- Bachelor Degree from good universities with major in Business, Commerce or English
- At least 1 to 2 years working experience in Customer Relations Management area
- Computer literate and able to operate Microsoft Windows Applications
- Able to speak fluent English

RETAIL STORE MANAGERS

- Male or female, 30 to 40 years old
- Pleasant, matured personality. Highly motivated and goal oriented
- Customer Service skills and possesses strong leadership and motivational ability. Is likely to have managed a retail store 2000 to 5000 sq.ft. in area before
- Bachelor Degree and Masters from good universities with major in Business, Commerce or English
- Minimum 5 years working experience in Customer Relations Management area
- Computer literate and skilful in Microsoft Windows Applications
- Able to speak fluent English

RETAIL OPERATIONS MANAGERS

- Male or female, 30 to 40 years old
- Focused and task oriented with strong leadership skills to manage/oversee stores. Hardworking, very reliable and independent
- Minimum Bachelor Degree and Masters from good universities with major in Retail Management, Business or Commerce
- Minimum five years working experience in Customer Relations Management area. Is likely to have managed a retail store space of 5000 sq.ft. or more or a chain store with at least 5 outlets
- Computer literate and skilful in Microsoft Windows Applications
- Able to speak fluent English

MERCHANDISING MANAGERS

- Female, 30 to mid 40's
- Minimum Bachelor Degree from good universities with major in Merchandising Management
- Good business sense and flair for fashion bags, wallets, travel bags, luggage and travel products
- Professional, decisive and sharp
- Computer literate and skilful in Microsoft Windows Applications
- Able to speak fluent English

ADMINISTRATIVE EXECUTIVE

- Female, 25 and above
- Speak good English
- Retail Management, Business, Commerce or Management related degree from top universities
- Computer literate and skilful in Microsoft Windows Applications

LUGGAGE BAG REPAIR SPECIALIST

- Male, above 30
- Diploma holder of at least two year course
- Able to speak, read and write English
- At least 5 years experience in leatherworks and repair of luggage bags and accessories

Preliminary interviews will be conducted daily from April 10, 16 until 20, 2001 at

MABUHAY PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.
9564 Jaime Street, Airport Village, Baltao, Parañaque City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. 853-7628/29.
Please bring complete resumé, 6 pcs. 2x2 pictures, certificate of employment and send email to mpms2000@the.net.ph

**FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY. NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED.
"MAG-INGAT SA ILLEGAL RECRUITERS"
THIS AD IS APPROVED BY POEA**

Conservation International - Philippines

Conservation International (CI) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and conservation of the Earth's ecosystem and biodiversity. The CI Philippines program focuses on two important biodiversity corridors in the country – the Sierra Madre mountain range of northern Luzon and the forests and marine ecosystems of Palawan

Position **POPULATION & ENVIRONMENT SPECIALIST**

Position Summary The Population & Environment Associate will conduct research and provide an analysis of information gathered about the links between population growth and environmental degradation in the Philippines with particular attention to CI's priority corridor sites

Scope of work includes the following:

The research assignment entails data collection, synthesis and analysis with the following goals:

- Provide a general demographic profile of the Philippines with an emphasis on population trends around natural areas. Includes analysis of natural growth, fertility rates, contraceptive prevalence, land-use, livelihood, etc.
- Highlight the prominent population issues relating to biodiversity conservation within the existing CI P activities and long-term corridor strategies. Focus on the effects of migration and natural growth rates on natural resources;
- Institutional mapping and gap analysis to identify opportunities/unfilled niches for CI;
- Provide background information on and facilitate negotiations with potential partner NGOs for future population – environment activities as needed.

Qualifications:

- Master's Degree in demography, public health or similar discipline;
- Extensive work experience in related field in the Philippines;
- Self-motivated individual capable of conducting independent research and analysis

Duration of the Position:

The position is for an initial period of six months

Please apply and mail your resumé by April 30, 2001 to:

**Managing Director
Conservation International – Philippines
5 South Lawin Street,
PhilAm Homes, Quezon City**

SATRAP

CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.
needs a

PROJECT MANAGER

and a

PROJECT ENGINEER

- Project Location: Ilocos Sur
- Project Duration: Two (2) to Three (3) years
- With experience as Project Manager/Project Engineer in Civil Construction particularly roads & bridges & handled at least P270.0 M worth single project
- The company is willing to negotiate or hire even after the project based on performance

Contact Tel. Nos. 564-3262/65/70/71/73. Look for Leonor

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Free Assessment

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CEBU OFFICE
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DAVAO OFFICE
davao@go2canada.com

TAIWAN OFFICE
taiwan@go2canada.com

TORONTO OFFICE
toronto@go2canada.com

VANCOUVER OFFICE
vancouver@go2canada.com

SAP Consultants & Project Managers

Send your comprehensive resumé
with a recent photograph to:

**P.O. Box 1976, MCPO,
Makati City, Philippines**

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

- COOK / ASST. COOK w/ experience
- WAITRESS / SPOTTERS (female)
  - w/ very pleasing personality
  - 5'3" height - 18-25 years old
- COMPUTER ASSISTANT
  - w/ experience on network gaming

Look for May or Myra
144 2/F, Fortune Bldg., Shaw Blvd., Pasig City
Tel. 671-6709
*Apply in person with biodata

SCHOOL IN QUEZON CITY

In need of the following:

1. **Teachers with License** (PRC/LET Passers)
   a. Early Childhood/Child Dev. Education
   b. BSEED (Grade School)
   c. BSE (High School) major in
      i. Mathematics
      ii. History
      iii. English
      iv. Science
2. **Guidance Counselor** with 3-5 years experience
3. **Registered Nurse** with 3-5 years experience

Send your resumé and pertinent documents to:

**University of the Philippines, P.O. BOX 106
Quezon City, Zip Code 1101**

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

3 PRODUCTION SUPERVISORS

- ✓ at least 35 years old
- ✓ at least 10 years experience
- ✓ male

1 PRODUCTION MANAGER

- ✓ at least 40 years old
- ✓ at least 10 years experience
- ✓ male

For assignment in a packaging firm in General Santos City

Call Maricel at (083) 554-2131

Wanted:

Head of country for Ogilvy & Mather for the year 2020. Training starts today.

We're looking for eight people who have the head to handle obsessive compulsive account directors, kick-ass creatives and the likes. Email your resume and a half page write-up on why Ogilvy should hire you to hr.manila@ogilvy.com. Or write Nympha Salazar at Ogilvy & Mather (Phils.) Inc., 15th Floor Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City no later than April 30, 2001.

Announcement

TOMORROW,
BATAAN DAY,
the following
Branch Offices
will be opened
to serve your
advertising
needs:

MAIN OFFICE-
Pasong Tamo
9:00 AM to
2:00 PM

MAKATI-ATRIUM
9:00 AM to
2:00 PM

CUBAO-ALIMALL
9:00 AM to
2:00 PM

ORTIGAS-
MEGAMALL
10:00 AM to
9:00 PM

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOBMarket ONLINE

LEAR CORPORATION Lear Automotive (EEDS) Philippines, Inc.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST SUPPLIER OF AUTOMOTIVE INTERIORS

We are in need of additional Engineers

- *Training on World Class Engineering Process*
- *Educational Assistance*
- *Company will support relocation expenses for successful candidates outside Cebu*
- *Compensation commensurate to knowledge & experience*

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENT FOR ALL POSITIONS

- *Graduate of ECE/EE/CompE / from reputable Colleges or Universities*
- *Above average scholastic records*
- *Knowledge in Microprocessor based design using assembly language for (Motorola, NEC, or PIC)*
- *Willing to relocate in Cebu*
- *With excellent communication and interpersonal skills.*

POSITION SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

SOFTWARE LEAD ENGINEER (Urgent Requirement) CODE :SLE

- *Responsible for Leading the software development team. Min. 3-5 years experience in Embedded Software Design and Dev.*
- *Must be an expert in Assembly or Embedded C software development process*
- *Has worked with Motorola, NEC, PIC or any Microcontroller system*
- *Has implemented source and track integrity software in the S/W dev. process is an advantage*
- *Firmware knowledge is a plus*
- *Supervisory experienced is preferred*

SOFTWARE ENGINEERS - CODE SE

- *Minimum 1-2 years working experience in software development*
- *Has worked with Microprocessor based systems*
- *Skilled in Assembly or C language Programming for embedded systems*
- *Familiarity to automotive systems and functions is an advantage.*

HARDWARE ENGINEERS CODE HE

- *Minimum 1-2 years working experience in board level hardware development*
- *Has worked with microprocessor based systems*
- *Must demonstrate good skills in Digital and Analog Designing*
- *Experience in working with simulation and analysis tools is an advantage.*

Lear Corporation, a Fortune 150 company headquartered in Southfield, Michigan, USA, is the worlds largest supplier of automotive interiors products. The Company's world-class products are designed, engineered & manufactured by more than 120,000 employees in over 300 facilities located in 33 countries. Three of its plants are located at the Mactan Exporting Zone in Lapu-Lapu City, Philippines with internet address at HTTP://www.lear.com

Interested applicants may send their application letter, resume with 2x2 colored picture and transcript of records to: Or you can also e-mail them at jopone@lear.com

CODE : ____
The Human Resource Administrator
Lear Automotive (EEDS) Philippines, Inc.
Philippine Engineering and Technology Center
MEZ II, Basak, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, Phils.

ALL NURSES

Want to work in the United States with Immigrant Visa Sponsorship and with a salary ranging from US$35,000 - 44,000 annually? Here is your chance.

ihs INTEGRATED HEALTH SERVICES **- Nurse Advocates**
in cooperation with **Career Link**

will conduct a **FREE JOB FAIR** in:

VENUE	DATE	TIME
Baguio City/Prime Hotel	April 16, 2001	9:00 A.M.
San Fernando, Pampanga/ Days Hotel Pampanga	April 18, 2001	9:00 A.M.
Tacloban City/Leyte Park Hotel	April 20, 2001	9:00 A.M.
Cagayan de Oro City/ Dynasty Hotel	April 22, 2001	9:00 A.M.
Puerto Princesa City/ Asiaworld Resort Hotel	April 24, 2001	1:00 P.M.
Iloilo City/Days Hotel Iloilo	April 26, 2001	9:00 A.M.
Cebu City/Holiday Plaza Hotel	April 28, 2001	1:00 P.M.
Zamboanga City/ Orchid Garden Hotel	April 29, 2001	3:00 P.M.
Davao City/Apo View Hotel	May 5, 2001	1:00 P.M.
Manila/ Rm. 303 Vicar's 1 Building 31 Visayas Ave. cor. Road 1 Diliman, Quezon City	May 17-24, 2001 By appointment	

Just bring two (2) clear copies of the following:

1. CGFNS certificate
2. B.S.N. Diploma
3. PRC License
4. Picture page from passport
5. Board Exam rating
6. Tanscript of records (Nursing)
7. Resumé with 2x2 pictures
8. Work certificates

Those awaiting for the result and those about to take the CGFNS exam may also participate in the Job Fair.

For more information and to register:
e-mail: carlink@nsclub.net / loalegado28@hotmail.com
Call: (02) 455-4358 / 455-3856
Text: 0919-5830157 / 0919-8453481

VISIT US AT **www.jobmarketonline.com**

We are in search of a

POWER PLANT MANAGER

Extensive experience in plant operations and maintenance management

Minimum of 5 years experience in all aspects of diesel power plant operations and maintenance

Sound experience in purchasing, materials management and control functions

Strong leadership abilities; excellent communication skills and computer literate

Licensed Mechanical Engineer or Electrical Engineer preferred

Please send application letter with detailed resumé, transcript of records, 2x2 photo no later than ***April 24, 2001*** *to:*

Human Resource Department
P.O. Box No. 13443
Pasig City, Metro Manila

"The finest & emerging Hotel in Lipa"

If you want to be part of a dynamic team, we at Lima City Hotel are inviting Qualified Applicants to fill-up the following positions:

1.	General Manager *(GM)*	15 to 20 years of experience
2.	Finance Manager *(FM)*	5 to 8 years of experience
3.	HRD Manager *(HRD)*	5 to 8 years of experience
4.	Front Office Manager *(FOM)*	5 years experience
5.	F&B Manager *(F&B)*	5 years experience
6.	Chief Engineer *(CE)*	5 years experience
7.	Chief Security *(CS)*	5 years experience
8.	Night Auditor *(NA)*	2 years experience

Interested applicants may send your application letter, resume & recent 2x2 picture *(indicating CODE on the envelope)* thru:

MS. SALVE ELIZON
7F Locsin Building
Ayala Avenue, cor Makati Avenue, Makati City

(We do not accept phone inquiries)

"Technically assisted by JAL HOTELS OF JAPAN"

The FAST STEP towards finding the best JOBS.

JOB ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

FEMALE DERMATOLOGIST ASSISTANT

- at least 2 years college - preferably midwife/ nursing or any science course
- 18 to 28 years old
- resident of Parañaque, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas
- pleasing personality

Submit Bio-data with 2x2 picture at NOVOSKIN 3rd Level Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang, Muntinlupa City

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ACCOUNTING CLERK

with high computer proficiency, preferably with experience in Condo Acctg. & Condo Documentation with the base in Q.C.
Submit comprehensive resumé, transcript, photo & contact number to:

78 Ignacio Santos Diaz St.
(formerly Banahaw St.)
Cubao, Quezon City.

GIA

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From the world's foremost authority in gemology
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National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO BID

February 12, 2001

The National Power Corporation (NPC) has obtained a loan from Kreditanstalt Fur Wiederaufbau (KfW) to finance the foreign exchange cost of various spare parts and equipment for various NPC Plants/Substations (KfW Batch 4) and intends to apply the proceeds of this loan to eligible payments under the contract, for which this "Invitation For Bids" is being issued. With this, NPC invites sealed bids from eligible firms that are domiciled in the Federal Republic of Germany (that conduct there a significant portion of their business, and whose goods and services for the programme originate chiefly in the Federal Republic of Germany) for items listed below.

Schedule	Qty	Description
4A-1	1-lot	Measuring Equipment w/ Trailer
4A-2	4-units	Generator Condition Monitor
4A-3	29-pcs	Spare Parts of ABB Distance Relay
4A-4	2-sets	Air Compressor
4B-1	1-unit	Transformer 50MVA
	31-sets	Circuit Breaker 230, 138 & 69KV
4B-2	6-sets	Disconnect Switch 138 & 69KV
4B-3	2-sets	Lightning Arrester 138KV
4B-4	34-pcs.	Instrument Transformer 138 & 69KV
4B-5	3-units	Battery Charger
	1-set	Thermal Imaging System
	1-set	Oil Tester Portable, Automatic

A complete set of Tender documents shall be available for issuance at the Office of the Bids & Contracts Management Department, 2nd Floor, Building II, National Power Corporation, cor. Quezon Avenue & Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City (Zip Code: 1104) Philippines starting **April 20, 2001** upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a registration fee of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00).

A Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted on **May 11, 2001** at 2:00 PM at the Solarium Conference Room, NPC-OBC, Diliman, Quezon City.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Office of the Bids & Contracts Management Dept. (BCMD) Telefax No. 921-23-08.

Deadline for submission of accomplished bids shall be not later than 9:00 AM of **May 25, 2001**.

NPC reserves the right to reject any application or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **A.T. CORPUZ**
Chairman
Contracts Award Committee

(PDI – April 8 & 9, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH CENTER
North Ave., cor. Agham Rd., Diliman,
Quezon City, Tel. # 929-60-36 to 39

NOTICE OF VACANT POSITION

CASHIER II

SG-14 (P 11,949.00); Item #21; CS Professional
Bachelor's degree with (1) yr. relevant experience and (4) hrs. of relevant training
Incomplete requirements will not be processed

Requirements:
Comprehensive Resumé with 2x2 picture
CSC Eligibility
Transcript of Records - (cert. true copy)
Diploma - (cert. true copy)
Certificate of Trainings Attended
Certificate of Employment (if applicable)

Send resumé to: The Office of the Executive Director or apply in person every Tuesday and Thursday only from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Deadline for submission is on ***20 April 2001.***

TAIAN (SUBIC) ELECTRIC, INC.

SENIOR MANAGER ACTING CONTROLLER

Male / 35-45 years of age / With MBA degree / Masters in financial management information science / Excellent in English preferably Chinese speaking / At least with 11 years experience in admin. management and relative financial and production matters / Must be excellent in business planning, internal auditing, cost accounting, and production management control system and procedures.

Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resumé together with 2x2 pictures & other documents to **Human Resource Section, Taian (Subic) Electric Inc. SBIP-I Argonaout Hiway Cor. Braveheart St., SBFZ 2222** Tel. No. (047) 252-1668, 1669 Fax No. 252-1661 or thru SBMA Labor Center SBFZ 2222

UMBN MINDANAO TIMES

URGENTLY NEEDS

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

(Male/Female)

Please bring comprehensive resumé to: 1002 G/F Tower Inn A. Arnaiz Street (Pasay Road) San Lorenzo Village, Makati City. For inquiries, please call: 843-3291

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
Overseas
Workers
Welfare
Administration

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) will conduct prequalification of prospective bidders to bid for the supply and delivery of Computers and Printers (Branded only).

ITEMS SPECIFICATIONS

-16-	units	Intel Pentium III 600 Mhz with CD ROM
-5-	units	Printer 24 pin Dot Matrix, 132 columns
-12-	units	Inkjet Printer, 600 x 1200 dpi w/ complete accessories
-2-	units	Notebook Computer Intel Pentium III - 600 Mhz processor with CD Rom Drive

For prequalification purposes, interested suppliers are required to submit to the Chairman, PBAC thru the General Services and Property Division, Room 301, 3rd Floor, OWWA Center Building corner F.B. Harrison and 7th Street, Pasay City not later than April 18, 2001 photocopies of the following documents (original to be presented for authentication purposes):

1. Articles of Incorporation issued by SEC.
2. Business Registration issued by DTI.
3. Valid Municipal License.
4. Income Tax Return (ITR) for the past 2-years.
5. Audited financial statements for the past 2-years.
6. Value Added Tax registration.
7. List of clients for the past 3-years.
8. Company profile.

Only those who comply with the requirements and are prequalified by OWWA will be invited to attend the pre-bid conference and the bidding which will be conducted on later dates to be advised to the pre-qualified bidders.

The two (2) envelopes system shall be adopted in the bidding.

The OWWA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or informality in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Administration. OWWA assumes no obligation for whatever loses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bids.

For more information please see or call the General Services and Property Division, 3/F Rm. 301, OWWA Center Building at phone numbers **891-7601** to **24** local 5304 and **833-0113**.

(Sgd.) **MARIANITO D. ROQUE**
Chairman
Pre-Qualification, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - Apr 7, 8 & 9, 2001)

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Qualifications:
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Interested applicants are invited to send in their full resume with information on experience and areas of expertise, updated list of publications in international journals, class of degree, current and expected salary, passport sized photograph (n.r) and contact telephone number(s) and email address to:

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Human Resource Division, Jalan Multimedia
63100 Cyberjaya, Selangor, Malaysia
Tel: 603 83125105, Fax: 603 83125100
E-mail: fuad.abdullah@mmu.edu.my

Application On line and more information available at: **http://www.mmu.edu.my**
Only short listed candidates will be notified.

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PROVINCIAL GENERAL SERVICES OFFICE
Provincial Capitol, Dipolog City
Tel. No. (065) 212-6492 Telefax No. (065) 212-3561

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Province of Zamboanga del Norte is inviting duly accredited systems providers to pre-qualify and bid for the installation and implementation of an Enterprise/ Client Server software Package with 12-user license of the following specifications:

FINANCIAL
1. General Ledger
2. Accounts Receivable
3. Cash/Bank Reconciliation
4. Budget Preparation Management System
5. Obligations for Allotments
6. Treasury Collection System

SUPPLY AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
7. Fixed Assets
8. Inventory
9. Procurements/Purchasing

SPECIALIZED MODULES
10. Project Management
11. Payroll
12. Human Resources
13. Equipment Rental and Billing

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Opening of Bids at the PGSO Capitol Bldg., Dipolog City	- **April 23, 2001**
Evaluation of Bid Proposals	- **April 24 to May 31, 2001**
Drawing of Contract	- **June 4, 2001**

Interested parties are required to submit the following documents together with the duly accomplished bid form not later than **April 23, 2001**, 10:00 AM, viz:

1. Business Permit;
2. Certification from at least two (2) Local Government Units where the program had been installed and implemented to be signed by the Local Chief Executive, if any;
3. Accreditation from the National Computer Center (NCC);
4. Income Tax Returns for CY 1999 and CY 2000 supported with audited financial statements;
5. Company Profile including names and nationalities of its key officials;
6. Project Implementation Methodology; and
7. Technical Staff Profile to include:
    a. Names;
    b. IT Skills;
    c. Trainings;
    d. Professional Certificates; and
    e. No. of Years in the Company
8. Technical Literature regarding the Software characteristics

Bid Form and other pertinent documents shall be mailed to suppliers who have signified their intention to bid thru a Letter of Intent addressed to:

HON. ISAGANI S. AMATONG
Provincial Governor
Province of Zamboanga del Norte
Capitol Building, Dipolog City

ATTENTION:

MRS. MYRNA G. CACHIN
Supply Officer IV
Provincial General Services Office
Capitol Building, Dipolog City

An actual assessment of the existing system shall be made by a team organized by the provincial government and its finding shall constitute as part of the evaluation of bids and award of contract.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total amount of the bid either in CASH, MANAGER'S CHECK OR SURETY BOND issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

The government reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ERLINDA M. VIDAL**
Provincial Budget Officer
OIC-Provincial General Services Officer

APPROVED:

(Sgd.) **ISAGANI S. AMATONG**
Provincial Governor
Chairman, Provincial Local Awards Committee

(PDI – April 8, 2001)

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COL. ANDRES MEDENILLA YLLANA MC (GSC) (Ret.)

of Naga City and Tahanan Village, Parañaque

Died in the Grace of our Lord on April 7, 2001
at the age of 63.

His bereaved wife **VERONICA GARCHITORENA**; children **ANJO** and **JACQUI MANZANO, ROBIE, PAULIE, JOMARI** and **AIKO MELENDEZ, RYAN**; grandchildren **ANDRE RAFAEL, MIKAELA, ANDREA** and **MICHAEL** (†); brothers and sisters **LOURDES** (†) and **HERMY, MONINA** and **GOT, JOSELITO** and **LITA, VIRGILLO** and **CHIT, BENNY** and **PURIE, MILAGROS** and **CESAR, DOLORES** and **AL**; sister-in-law **RITA** and **MAX MALAGAR**, in-laws, nephews, nieces and other relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque.

Overnight vigil will be at the AFP-Medical Center Chapel V. Luna Road, Quezon City, on Tuesday, April 10, 2001.

Interment will be on Wednesday, April 11, 2001 at the Himlayang Pilipino, Quezon City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family and relatives of the late

ROSALINDA GO VERA

who peacefully joined her Creator on March 28, 2001

wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to those who expressed their sympathy, stayed with us during the vigil and funeral rites, sent flowers, gave perpetual membership for prayers and donated to the Misael P. Vera Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

ATTY. JAIME J. LAYOSA

Former Comelec Commissioner

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on April 6, 2001 at the age of 68.

His bereaved wife **Lydia**; his children **Mai** and **Timmy**, and **David**; his grandchildren **Patricia**, **Cisco**, and **Gabby**; his mother **Guadalupe**; and siblings **Helen** and **Ramon**, **Linda**, **Ramon** and **Evelyn**, and **Ernesto** (†) and **Freda**.

His remains lie in state at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Church (Claret), Teachers' Village, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, April 10, 2001 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat after the 2 o'clock p.m. Mass.

JESUS MA. NORIEGA TURLA

Peacefully joined his Creator
on April 3, 2001.

His wife **Theresita**; children
Ma. Theresa Jesusa,
Ma. Carmen and **Robert Zarate**,
Ma. Angela and **Danilo Limjoco**,
J. Jose and **Ma. Victoria Yap**;
grandchildren **Jason**, **Dane** and **Ian**, **Joel** and **Alex** would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to relatives and friends who offered prayers and condoled with them at the time of their bereavement.

"For I am convinced that neither dead nor life, neither the presence nor the future,
nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the Love of God, that is Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 8:38-39

ELIA ALCOS vda. de VENTOCILLA

of San Pedro, Laguna

Peacefully joined her Creator on April 7, 2001 at the age of 79.

Her bereaved children **DIVINA** and **AVEL CASTILLO**, **LUZ** and **REY BONGAO**, **JOCELYN**, **EDMUND** and **IVY**; grandchildren **DONNA**, **DIANNE** and **ALVIN**; **LIA**, **RAMON** and **LOUISE**; **ION** and **EJ**, and dear sisters, brother, in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Chapel of St. Alphonsus de Ligouri, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, April 11, 2001 at 9:00 AM at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

WE DESIGN OBITUARIES FOR FREE.

YAO YEE SIN @ VICENTE YAO

Peacefully joined our Lord
on April 04, 2001 at the age of 80.

His loving wife **Chua Wan Tin** (†); children **Michael** and **Marilyn**, **Nestor** and **Jean**, **Nelson** and **San San**; grandchildren **David**, **Catherine**, **Franz**, **Mike Anderson**, **Mauro Alexander**, **Stephanie Nicole**, **Fanealirich**, **Leo Vicente**; relatives and friends mourn his passing and wish his eternal rest.

His body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, Quezon City. His remains will be transferred to Chinese Cemetery for cremation on Monday, April 09, 2001 at 10:00 AM.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in Me will live,
even though he dies, and whoever
believes in Me will never die.
John 11:25-26

Toribia Hemedes Cecilia

of Sala, Cabuyao, Laguna

has peacefully joined her Creator on April 5, 2001
at the age of 74.

Her bereaved husband **Jose Cecilia Sr.**; children and spouses **Mariz** and **Freddie**, **Tipin** and **Leo**, **Beth**, and **Lito** and **Baby** together with all her grandchildren **JJ**, **Bea**, **Joy**, **Jojo**, **Stephen**, **Robin**, **Joey**, **Joyce**, **Jomai** and **Jolo** and loved ones request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at 34 Sala, Cabuyao, Laguna. Interment will be on Tuesday, April 10, 2001 at the Cabuyao Cemetery after 9:30 a.m. Mass at the St. Policarp Parish Church, Cabuyao, Laguna

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ENGR. ROLDAN M. VELASCO

Mayor, Infanta, Quezon

Peacefully joined our Lord on April 6, 2001 at the age of 50.

His bereaved wife **Lorna**; children **Leah**, **RR**, **Louanne** and **Rhona**; brother **Napoleon**; sisters **Suzie**, **Baby** and **Aleli**; **Tia Tesing**; **Mike** and **Mavel** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Municipal Hall of Infanta, Quezon on April 7 and 8, 2001 and will be transferred to La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City on April 9, 2001.

Interment will be on April 11, 2001 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS •
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN •

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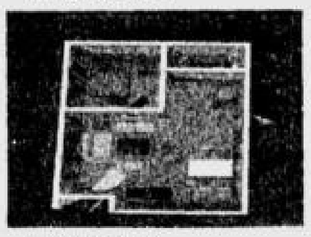

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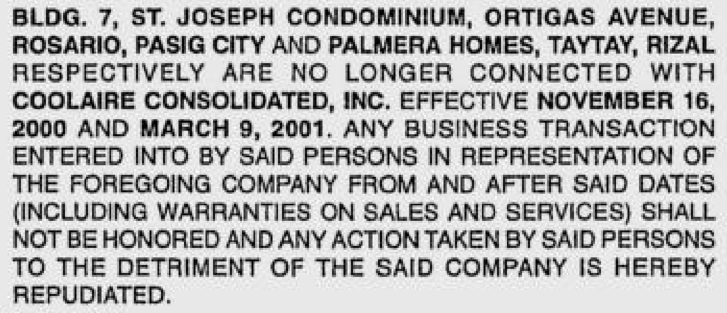
(PDI - Apr. 8, 2001)

Inquirer's Makati Branch



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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) invites all interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the provision of Janitorial, Security and Engineering Maintenance Services to the Institute for CY 2001.

Interested parties may secure bid form upon payment of non-refundable bidder's fee in the amount of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00) from the Property & Supply Department c/o Ms. MAE MARIE E. HERNANDEZ from April 10-23, 2001 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM (excluding holidays and weekends).

The following schedules will be followed:

Type of Services	Deadline of Submission of Pre-Qualification Documents is at 4:00 PM	Bid Conference for Qualified Bidders Venue and Time	Bid Opening	Venue and Time
Janitorial	April 24, 2001	April 25, 2001 Lecture Room 1 9:00-11:00 AM	April 30, 2001	Lecture Room 1 9:00 AM
Security	April 24, 2001	April 25, 2001 Lecture Room 1 1:00-3:00 PM	April 30, 2001	Lecture Room 1 1:30 PM
Engineering Maintenance	April 24, 2001	April 25, 2001 Lecture Room 1 3:00-5:00 PM	April 30, 2001	Lecture Room 1 3:00 PM

Interested Bidders are required to submit the following pre-qualification documents not later than the above mentioned schedule on pre-qualification:

1. SEC registration with articles of incorporation (copy should be properly notarized)
2. Business permit
3. Department of Health Accreditation (if applicable)
4. List of clients in the past 5 years
5. Certification of performance for existing clients (except RITM)
6. Organizational profile that includes a list of employees, their qualification(s) and applicable professional licenses
7. Inventory of existing equipment
8. Audited Financial Statement for CY's 2000 and 1999

Only Pre-qualified Bidders shall be allowed to attend the Pre-Bid Conference. Attendance to the Pre-Bid Conference is a must and failure to show up shall be deemed to have waived his right to participate.

Sealed bids must be submitted on the scheduled day of bid opening accompanied by a bid security in the amount equivalent to two and a half percent (2½%) of the total bid price. The bid security may be in the form of cash, Cashier's or Manager's check, bank draft or guarantee against any reputable bank, letter of credit issued by a commercial bank, surety bond callable on demand issued by a surety or insurance company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner or any combination thereof. Interested bidders are requested to present personally or through their authorized representatives their proposals. Letters of authority to represent and sign documents must be properly notarized.

RITM reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality therein and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Institute.

(Sgd.) **REMIGIO M. OLVEDA, M.D., CESO III**
Director IV

(PDI – Apr. 7, 8 & 9, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL CONCILIATION AND MEDIATION BOARD
Department of Labor and Employment
Intramuros, Manila

29 March 2001

INVITATION TO BIDDER

The National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB) invites all interested and accredited suppliers to pre-qualify and to submit sealed bid on May 10, 2001, 3:00 PM for the following equipment.

2u Proliant DL 380RC1 (Server)
1u UPS for Server
1u Laser Printer
8u Personal Computers
1u Line Printer
3u UPS for workstations

Pre-qualification requirements may be obtained at the Office of the PBAC Chairman, TSSD, NCMB, Ground Floor, DOLE Building, Intramuros, Manila from April 10-20, 2001.

Bidders bond is required equivalent to 2.5% of Bid in Cash/Manager's Check/GSIS Surety (original).

The NCMB have the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality or defects therein, or to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

For inquiries, please contact the Financial and Management Division with telephone number 527-3423.

(Sgd.) **ELENITA F. CRUZ**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – Apr. 8, 9 & 10, 2001)

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Angel wings

Q. Does the Bible say that angels have two wings?

A. Nowhere in the New Testament are angels spoken of as having wings, although in his vision on Patmos, John the Apostle "heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven" *(Revelation 8:13; 14:6)*. The Old Testament does mention winged angels. Isaiah describes seraphim with six wings each *(Isaiah 6:2)*, and the cherubim which Ezekiel saw had four wings *(Ezekiel 1:11)*. The cherubs of gold at the ends of the mercy seat in the Ark of the Covenant *(Exodus 25:20)*, as well as those of olive wood in Solomon's temple *(1 Kings 6:24)*, had two wings each. These latter references to images of cherubs are the only instances in which angels of any order are referred to in the Bible as two-winged creatures. Some scholars suppose that the Hebrews borrowed their conceptions of winged seraphim and cherubim from the Assyrians, who depicted winged men with the heads of hawks on the walls of their buildings, and whose palaces were guarded by winged bulls and lions.

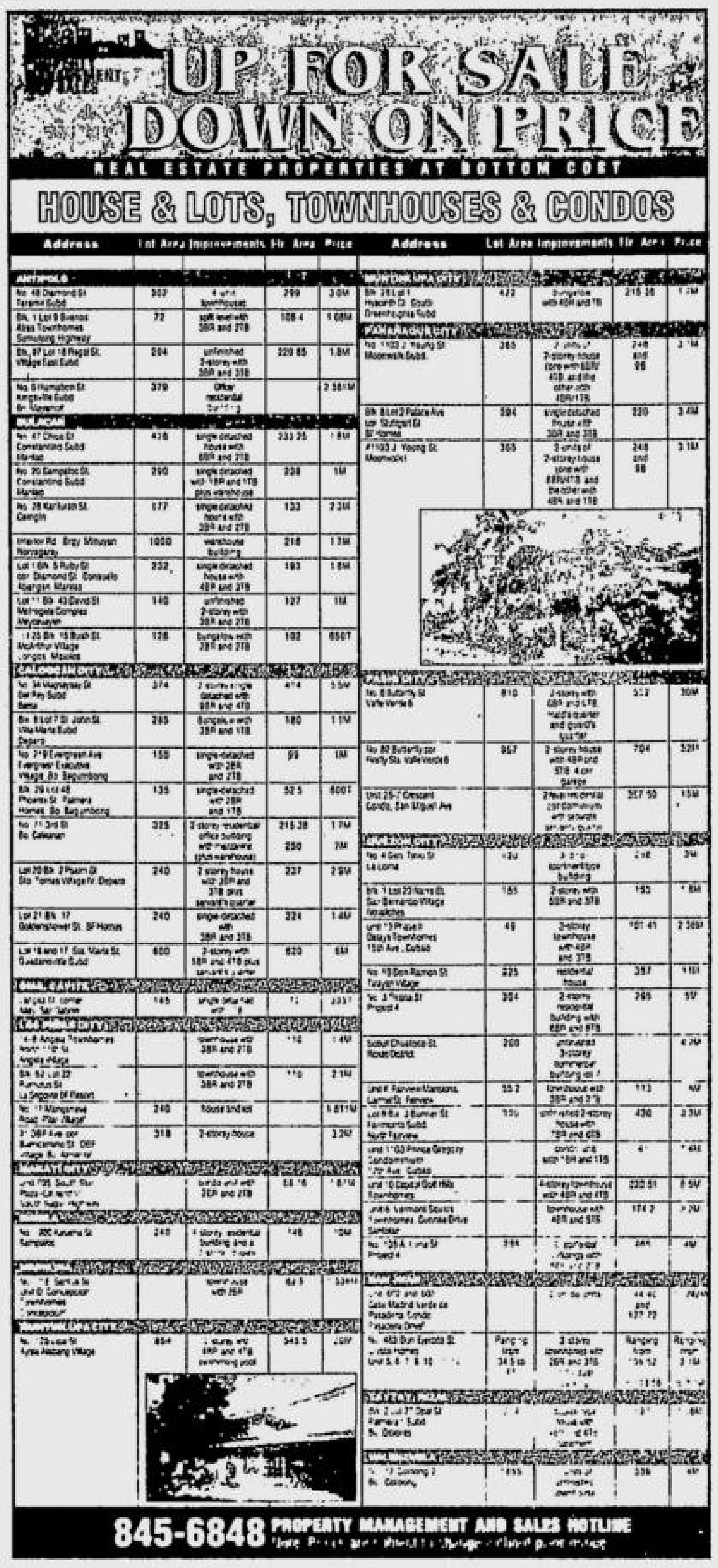
For the Record. How many angels are mentioned by name in the Bible? Two-and-a-half, to be exact. They are: Gabriel, whom Daniel saw in a dream and who also visited the Virgin Mary in Nazareth; Michael, who fought the Devil over the body of Moses; and Lucifer, the fallen angel, so he can only count for half an angel.

Past Forward. This day in 1974: It was one historic night in sports in Atlanta's Fulton County Stadium as Hank Aaron broke Babe Ruth's major league baseball homerun record by collecting his 715th round-tripper. Hammerin' Hank trotted into baseball immortality as the Braves beat the San Francisco Giants, 7-4.

WORD WATCH

Martilyo : from the Spanish *martillo*, 'hammer.'

PDI – April 8, 2001



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Any transaction entered into by her as of this date shall not be honored by the company.

From: **Management**
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(PDI – Apr. 7 & 8, 2001)

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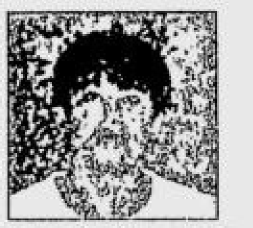

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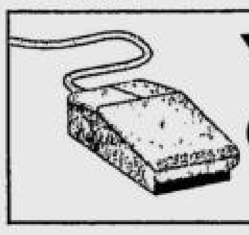

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late PASCUAL G. NARCISO has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No.12151; Page No.33; Book No.25; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Angelito C. Baclig of Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya.
PDI-April 8, 15 & 22, 2001

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER

O, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin,assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee(3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands(3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers.Amen. (This Prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.) MM

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.
St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.
Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.

Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

THANK YOU SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER C1
Sunday
LIFESTYLE
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

A WEEKEND of fun activities, egg-hunting, kiddie loot bags and lots of surprises for the whole family at Dusit Hotel Nikko.

Get that Easter vacation feeling right in town

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA

UNLESS you made a booking three months ago for an out-of-town break during the Easter holidays, you will, in all probability, spend the Holy Week quietly in Manila. By now, practically all resorts within Luzon are closed for bookings and/or have waiting lists that span the breadth of Edsa.

Spending the Easter holidays in town is not such a bad idea as Greater Manila comes to a virtual halt when Holy Week comes around. Streets become blissfully empty and a certain solemnity shrouds the entire Metro. With no traffic or packing and waiting in queues at bus terminals or airports to contend with, some families can savor the unusual peace and quiet that the city offers at this time.

After observing the usual rituals that come with the season, many like to sit and reflect in the quiet of their respective homes while others like to have a change of scenery and yet not leave the city.

For those who can afford, hotels have family packages that offer a quick get-away and promise fun for the little ones come Easter morning. Check out this chart that Lifestyle has put together to make it easy for you to compare, contrast and decide.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

INDULGING/ p.C6

What Drives You

Enriching the earth.

Through projects like GOOD ROOTS, we try to help our environment by helping farmers reclaim our lost forests. By doing this, we preserve the environment and increase rural incomes. Because over and above the 80 years of our productive partnership in the petroleum industry, what really deserves celebration is our 80 years of partnership in progress. Once again, we commit ourselves to you through the many projects we have founded and continue to fund. Through *Team Caltex*, which supports our national amateur boxing athletes, *Habitat for Humanity*, which provides housing for the community, the *Caltex Fund*, a street-to-school program for disadvantaged kids, and *Philippine Eagle Foundation, Inc.*, devoted to saving the national bird from extinction - we aim to give our people and environment a chance for a better future.

80 YEARS Fuelling Progress PHILIPPINES

What Drives You CALTEX

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Why this commencement was special

BY GRACE SHANGKUAN KOO, PH.D.

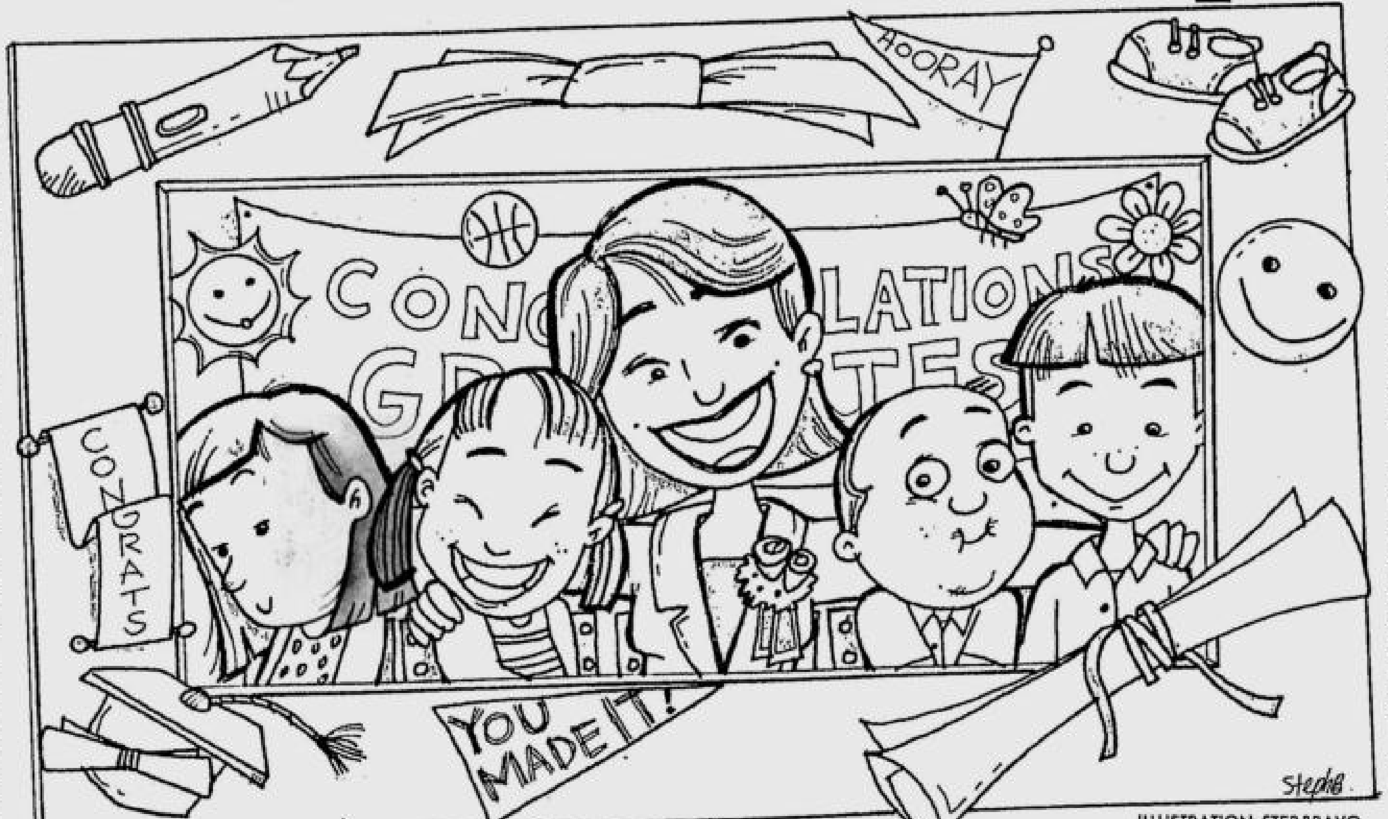

ILLUSTRATION: STEP BRAVO

THESE are busy and dreaded days for teachers—wrapping up the semester, administering final exams, checking loads of papers and computing final grades. And on top of these duties, speaking at commencement exercises is not uncommon. This year I was honored to speak for the first time at the recognition day of a special school—the Cupertino Center.

While preparing for my speech a day before the commencement exercises, I dug out my files, rummaged though my old speeches and played around ideas, but in futility. I found no appropriate words for advice. What do you say to children with Down's Syndrome who cannot appreciate big words, the autistic who are self-absorbed, and children with ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) who find much difficulty in sitting through a program? I put aside all my papers and listened to my heart in silence. Who am I to "advise" the students, their parents and their teachers? I could only say how thankful I was for their examples and what an impact their lives have made to those around them. And so I wrote the speech without any notes, but with utmost sincerity and humility.

With gusto

On the day of the commencement, the parents arrived early and the administrators and teachers were dressed for the occasion. The children were lined up with great anticipation. As the familiar strains of the "Triumphal March" from "Aida," the opera, wafted into the hall, the administrators and I led the march down the aisle. Led to our seats and turning toward the audience, I saw the students making their way down toward their seats. The sights and sounds were unforgettable. I was touched by the sight of children of different sizes—showing great efforts to keep in line and in rhythm with the music—marching to their assigned seats. Some of the kids had real psychomotor problems and yet participated as eagerly as the rest to make it to their seats, with their teachers guiding them at their side. A few of the special students bawled because of the unusual dose of stimuli, and one lost his control and romped up the stairs and ran in circles. The marching kids finally made it to their assigned seats. It was truly no mean feat.

The national anthem was sung "live" and accompanied by the students themselves who composed the percussion band. I was much impressed by the vibraphone players who played the melodies. They were able to keep the pace of the rather fast tempo and did not miss a note. The children sang with gusto and the whole country should be proud of their singing. Their musicality again shone when they sang and danced at the end of the program. Their lively expression and creative movement surpassed many school performances where students were expected to sing poker-faced and prohibited to move.

The speech

The principal was my classmate at UP in an MA course who later took a course with me in her doctorate program. She gave the welcome remarks and started to introduce the guest speaker. She had requested earlier in the week for a copy of my resumé. As she was enumerating my accomplishments, I had this overwhelming feeling of how out-of-place my resumé was on this occasion. Listening to someone introducing you to an audience in regular schools has always been quite uncomfortable, and to hear your resumé read to students with learning disabilities and their parents is doubly difficult.

I took the podium and gave my little speech. I'll quote excerpts from it.

Addressing the students, among them many adolescents and young adults, I said: "... you have overcome a host of difficulties to get where you are now. We admire you for your courage, persistence, determination, hard work and perseverance. These virtues are not necessarily present in children who have not encountered disabilities and difficulties in life. Your lives serve as an inspiration to countless people who pursue further studies so that they could be of service to you. Your learning has shown us how amazing the brain is indeed... Your examples have led us to be aware of how other people take their blessings for granted. We want to thank you for guiding us to understand the important things in life."

Delivering an address to special kids, their parents and educators can be doubly special

A salute to the teachers: "Teaching is difficult, and teaching students with special needs is a Herculean task... With extraordinary patience and kindness, you draw your students from their shells, scaffolding, coaching and mentoring, day by day, with a goal in your mind and a song in your heart. On certain days you are successful, and on other days you are disappointed. Still with a weary body or a disheartened spirit, you show compassion and enthusiasm to go the next step with your wards."

To the parents go our warm admiration. "Raising a special child means a life of complete dedication and sacrifice. Your journey to the present is a heroic story. Perhaps from the stage of denial to the stage of anger and later to acceptance and hope, you accepted passively or embraced actively your life struggles no other parent could really understand. Yet in the quiet of your heart and in the darkness of night, your conversations with yourself and with God have given you the light and strength in this journey. Special children need special parents—parents who are blessed with extra measures of love and commitment, endurance and hopefulness..."

To the administrators and staff, keep up the good work. "These children and adolescents have been entrusted to your care and you have taken the call. May you find joy and meaning in your calling. And may you find strength in knowing that many lives have been enriched because of your careful planning and management.

"Today serves as a milestone for these children. It is a new beginning for each one of them. Let us work harder and help them to expand their worlds, widen their horizons, deepen their knowledge, experience more fully and express more fully. Let us seek to create an optimal environment, for children—whether of normal IQ or with special needs—live to become what they are given in the environment." And I closed with these words of Dorothy Nolte. This popular poem, which I have often quoted in speeches, never sounded truer than when I spoke them to these special people:

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.
If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.
If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.
If a child lives with shame, he learns to be guilty.

If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.
If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence.
If a lives with security, he learns to have faith.
If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.

If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to love the world.

I left the school with renewed hope and optimism for mankind—witnessing man's determination and will to triumph over obstacles, resilience to bounce back from temporary defeats, kindness to help selflessly, and examples to inspire hope and goodness.

E-mail the author at grace@usa.net and visit www.sunnybrook.net for her previous articles

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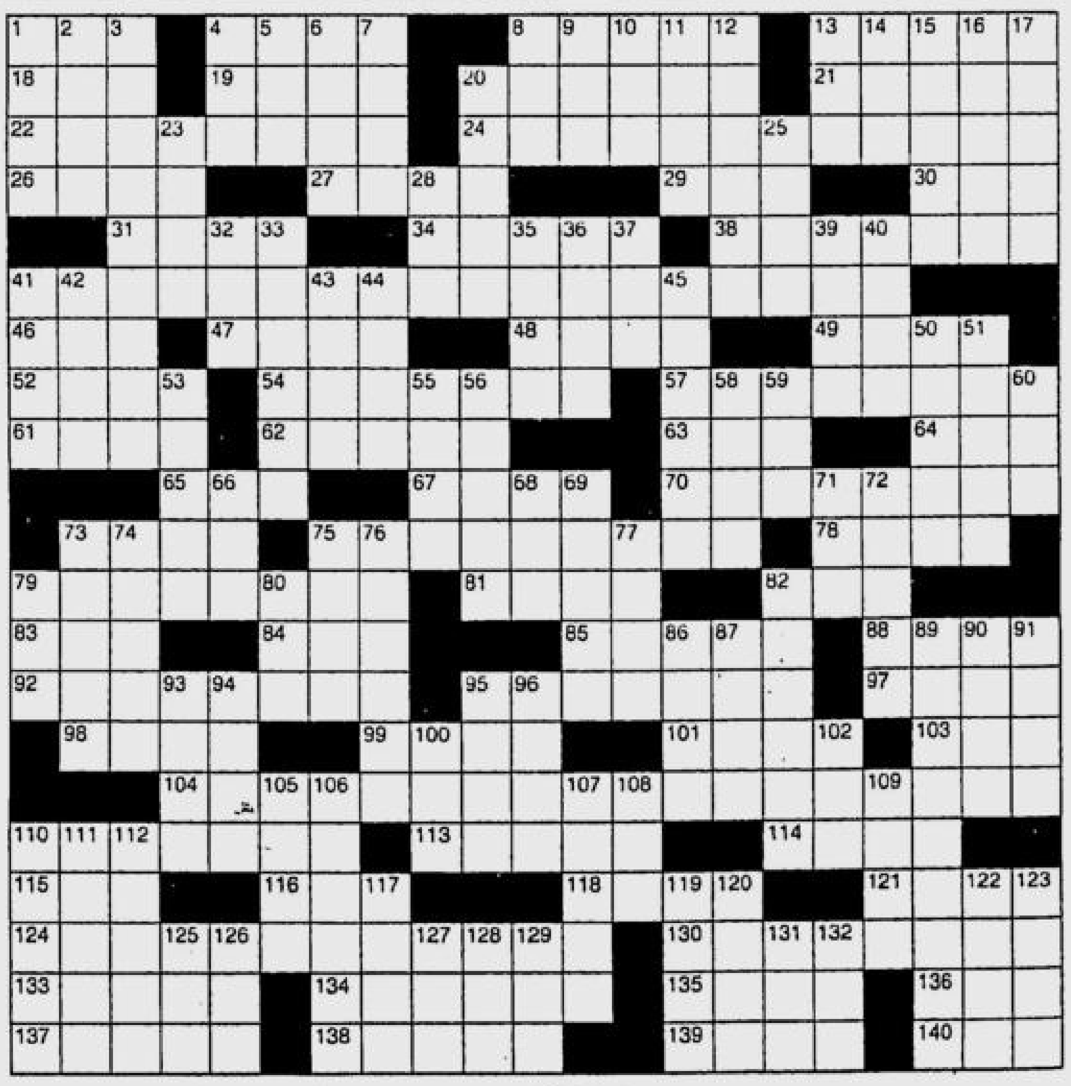
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

ART WORK



ACROSS
1 Mushroom part
4 Demonic
8 Vatican-related
13 Heiss on the ice
18 Hasten
19 Pianist Lupu
20 Venus' sister
21 Speak one's mind
22 Art Carney role
24 Art Tatum recording of '49
26 Paper quantity
27 — the Hyena (Capp character)
29 Two — kind
30 Organ of equilibrium
31 South American capital
34 Laotian native
38 Wholly
41 Art Rooney's team
46 Palindromic dictator
47 Wing-ding
48 Croquet arena?
49 Model Carre
52 Pub orders
54 Flask
57 Zimbabwe, formerly
61 Celebratory suffix
62 Alliance
63 Tiriac of tennis
64 61, to Cicero
65 Hosp. areas
67 Stable youngster
70 Casino worker
73 Italian statesman Aldo
75 Art Garfunkel's partner
78 Travelers' aids
79 Food fish
81 Lhasa —
82 Drink like 81 Across
83 Business abbr.
84 Conger or moray
85 "Jeepers!"
88 "Back in the —" ('68 song)
92 Composer Verdi
95 Ms. Van Tassel
97 Yearn
98 "Hook" heavy
99 Chutzpah
101 Watch pts.
103 "Bali —"
104 Art Malik series
110 Annoying
113 Depart
114 Tabriz currency
115 Society column word
116 Claire or Balin
118 Bouquet
121 Kite part
124 Art Sansom cartoon
130 Art Fleming hosted it
133 Arrested
134 Hire
135 Mine feature
136 Sportscaster Berman
137 Stout
138 Boca —, FL
139 Kansas city
140 TV chef Martin

DOWN
1 "Dark Lady" singer
2 Helper
3 Gridiron calls
4 Drop a brick
5 Tub
6 Superstar
7 Debussy's "Clair de —"
8 Schoolboy's shot
9 Joan Van —
10 Mile High Center architect
11 Part of A.D.
12 Permissible
13 Dovecote sound
14 Mil. address
15 More mature
16 Actor Patrick
17 Suspicious (of)
20 Reduce to smithereens
23 Skip
25 Abominate
28 Say please too often?
32 Flavor enhancer
33 Problem solver?
35 Tropical spot
36 — impasse
37 Fresh
39 Walked
40 Ferrara first family
41 Chanteuse Edith
42 Eric of "Nuns on the Run"
43 — Bator
44 Rampur royalty
45 Fermi or Caruso
50 Long Island resort
51 At — and sevens
53 Baby bird?
55 Soybean product
56 "— Gay"
58 It holds plenty!
59 Lennon's widow
60 Tune
66 Caviar
68 Nile slitherer
69 Composer Franz
71 Actress Thurman
72 — New Guinea
73 Frenzied
74 Take place
75 Nest noise
76 Accuse tentatively
77 "Wuthering Heights" setting
79 Russian jet
80 Agt.
82 Head
86 Fade, as a flower
87 Move like molasses
89 Academic
90 "The Young Lions" author
91 Harness part
93 Tipplers
94 Canyon sound
95 Swiss artist
96 — breve
100 Shoemaker's tool
102 Biol. or chem.
105 Mideastern title
106 Decathlete Bruce
107 Tower material?
108 "Waking — Devine" ('98 film)
109 Pro — (proportionately)
110 Foreword, for short
111 Change for the better
112 New Hampshire city
117 Soprano Gluck
119 California resort
120 Try again
122 Concept
123 Actress Fontanne
125 Encore exclamation
126 "— Bad Apple" ('71 song)
127 Select, with "for"
128 — -mo
129 Tons of time
131 Garage supply
132 Child welfare org.

ANSWER ON PAGE C7

Disciples of the Cross

MUSTARD SEED

Joseph Galdon, S.J.

CHAPTER 16 of St. Matthew is one of the most helpful passages in the Gospels. I like it a lot. It tells us all about daily living and Christian happiness. After the second miracle of the loaves and fishes, the Pharisees and the Sadducees challenged Jesus to prove that He was the Messiah. They asked Him for a sign from heaven. Jesus told them: "You can read the signs of good and bad weather in the sky, but you cannot read the meaning in the miracles that I have performed, and the things that I have said. Only evil and unbelieving people want more signs than those."

Then, on the other side of the lake (Is that Matthew's symbol of a very different attitude toward Jesus' friends that separates them from the unbelieving Pharisees?), Jesus turns to his disciples and instructs them throughout the rest of the Chapter. He warns them about the negative and closed attitude of the Scribes and Pharisees who cannot read the signs of the times. Jesus asks the disciples: "You are men of such little faith. Why are you talking among yourselves about not having any bread? (They thought he was scolding them for not bringing enough food with them across the lake when he told them to "beware of the yeast of the Pharisees.") Don't you understand that I'm not talking about bread?"

Then, in the rest of the chapter, Jesus talks with them about his identity, the necessity of suffering, the conditions for following him, and the road to the Cross.

Who is Jesus?

Jesus asks the disciples: "Who do people say I am?" They give him all the standard answers: "Some say you are a preacher like John the Baptist, some say you are like Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the prophets who come back to life again." But then Jesus asks them the crucial question which separates them from unbelievers and doubters like the Pharisees: "But who do you say I am?" That is the key question for all his followers, isn't it? The disciples are quiet for awhile, but then Peter says: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God! You are not only the Messiah, but the Son of God!" Jesus tells him: "You are a happy man, Simon. Other people have not revealed that truth to you. You have believed it in faith because my Father in heaven has revealed it to you. Because of your faith, I will call you Peter now (Kepha in Aramaic and Petros in Greek), and you are the rock on which I will build my church."

From that day on, Jesus began to make it very clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, to be put to death, and to be raised up on the third day. Peter tells him: "That can't be, Lord! How can that happen if you are the Son of God?" But Jesus tells him: "You are an obstacle in my path, Peter. Because the way you are thinking is man's way, not God's way." Peter didn't understand that suffering and death was essential to salvation, what the theologians call "Messianic Necessity." The Son of God must die and then rise again on the third day to save us all from sin."

The way

In the final section of Chapter 16, Jesus explains what his disciples, and all of us, must do if we are to be his followers. It's one of the most meaningful sections of Jesus' teaching. One of the Biblical commentaries calls it "The Way to the Cross." It sums up beautifully what happiness and holiness are all about. There are three conditions of discipleship. Jesus says: "If anyone wants to come with me and be my follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

First, we must "deny" ourselves. One of the other translations of the word is "renounce" ourselves. We must say "No" to the self! It all comes down to unselfishness, doesn't it? The selfish person always says "yes" to himself; he always grabs what he wants. He can't say "no" to himself and "yes" to others. It's always "yes" to self and "no" to others.

Second, Jesus tells his disciples that they have to "take up their cross." The cross is pain and death. The cross is sacrifice. That, perhaps, is the hardest lesson of all. In order to love, we have to make sacrifices. In order to follow Christ, we often have to accept pain.

Follow Jesus

Finally, Jesus tells his followers that they "must follow me." They must become like him. They must all be "Christ-like." What does it mean to be like Christ? We could write hundreds of pages about what it means to be like Christ, but perhaps they could all be summed up in one word—compassion. Christ really cared for people. He loved everyone, even those who rejected him and put him to death. "Forgive them, Father, for they do not know what they are doing." Christ loved everybody especially sinners. To be like Christ, we, too, must love everybody!

Chesterton said once that it was very easy to love mankind, but very difficult to love the man who kept letting his chickens into Chesterton's backyard. We all have people we don't like, people we find it hard to get along with, people who don't like us. But we've got to love them all—each and every one of them, the nice guys as well as the bad guys—if we want to follow Christ.

Christ, too, was a healer. It was the most obvious sign of his compassion and love. He healed the sick, the lame, the blind. The Gospels are full of stories of his physical healing. But he also healed psychologically. He gave loving encouragement, and appreciation and strength to those who were discouraged, afraid, or full of mental pain. He gave a son back to the widow in the plaza. He told Peter and the apostles to stop worrying about the tax money. He calmed the storm at sea, which was only a symbol for all the fears and worries inside our troubled minds. But best of all (for all of us are sinners!), Christ was a spiritual healer. He forgave Magdalene and Peter. He would even have forgiven Judas, if only Judas had said: "I'm sorry." We, too, must be healers, if we are going to be Christ-like—physical healers when we can, but always psychological and spiritual healers, never hesitant to talk with a friend who is discouraged, or give someone a hug.

Jesus sums up this whole chapter on "The Way to the Cross" when he says: "Anyone who wants to save his life must lose it. But anyone who loses his life for my sake, will find life again. For what good is it if you gain the whole world and ruin your life?" What good is it if you are the richest man or woman in Alabang or Corinthian Gardens, the president of your own company, or one of the biggest politicians in the country, but have lost your self? It's the paradox of the Cross. We must lose our lives in order to find them. We must be unselfish, instead of thinking of "me first." We must make sacrifices and accept pain in the pursuit of love, instead of looking only for comfort and pleasure. We must reach out to everyone (even my mother-in-law, or the Boss who doesn't like me!) in compassion and love. We must be "Disciples of the Cross." We must "let go" of the self, and let Christ be the "Captain of my soul." Then, like Peter, we will be happy men and women.

Trouble-free travels this Holy Week

TRAVELERS taking the Holy Week break can look forward to a trouble-free sojourn while enjoying free gift items en route to their destinations.

The Caltex Summer Samaritan program has thought up a comprehensive package of services, many of these free of charge, so that motorists can be assured of a safe and secure travel. Should they need a helping hand while on the road, the Caltex Summer Samaritan program is ready to solve problems from the more complex like an engine corking out, to the simplest ones like a motorist in need of a quick refreshing drink.

The program has readied free towing with well-trained mechanics stationed at strategically located stations to assist motorists in trouble and Xpress Lube roving vans to help them on the highways.

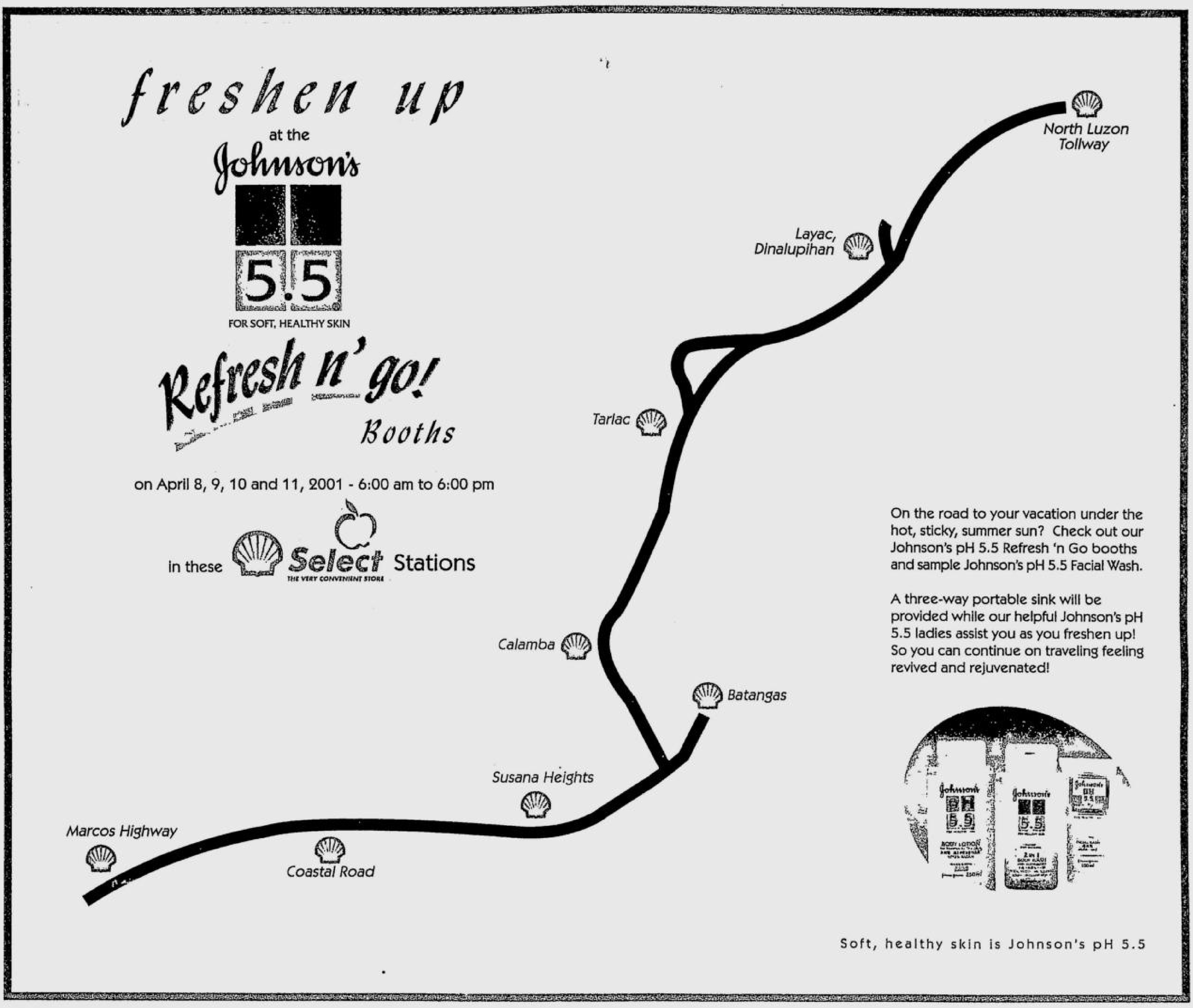
But even before they embark on that trip, the first phase of the program offers until April 15 a 22-point checkup in 18 Caltex Xpress Lube Service Centers in Luzon, just to be sure that vehicles are in top condition to prevent any untoward incident while cruising on the road.

The Xpress Lube Centers also offer motorists 20 percent discounts on items such as brake fluids and coolants. A multipurpose Xpress Lubes Camp Mats are also available at discounted prices for motorists who buy the discounted products and avail of change oil package.

While waiting for their vehicles to be checked, customers can send text messages for free through landline texting setup in participating stations. They can also enjoy free soft drinks and water.

The second phase, which will be offered from Wednesday to Easter Sunday, excluding Good Friday, provides a wide range of motorist assistance services and a generous list of products for free, essential for traveling families and *barkadas*.

Aside from services mentioned, the program also offers free car checks at selected Caltex stations, car battery check stations, first-aid assistance and other product giveaways like diapers, ice cream, soft drinks, mineral water, hot food and cold drinks served at the Caltex Star Mart outlets, among other products.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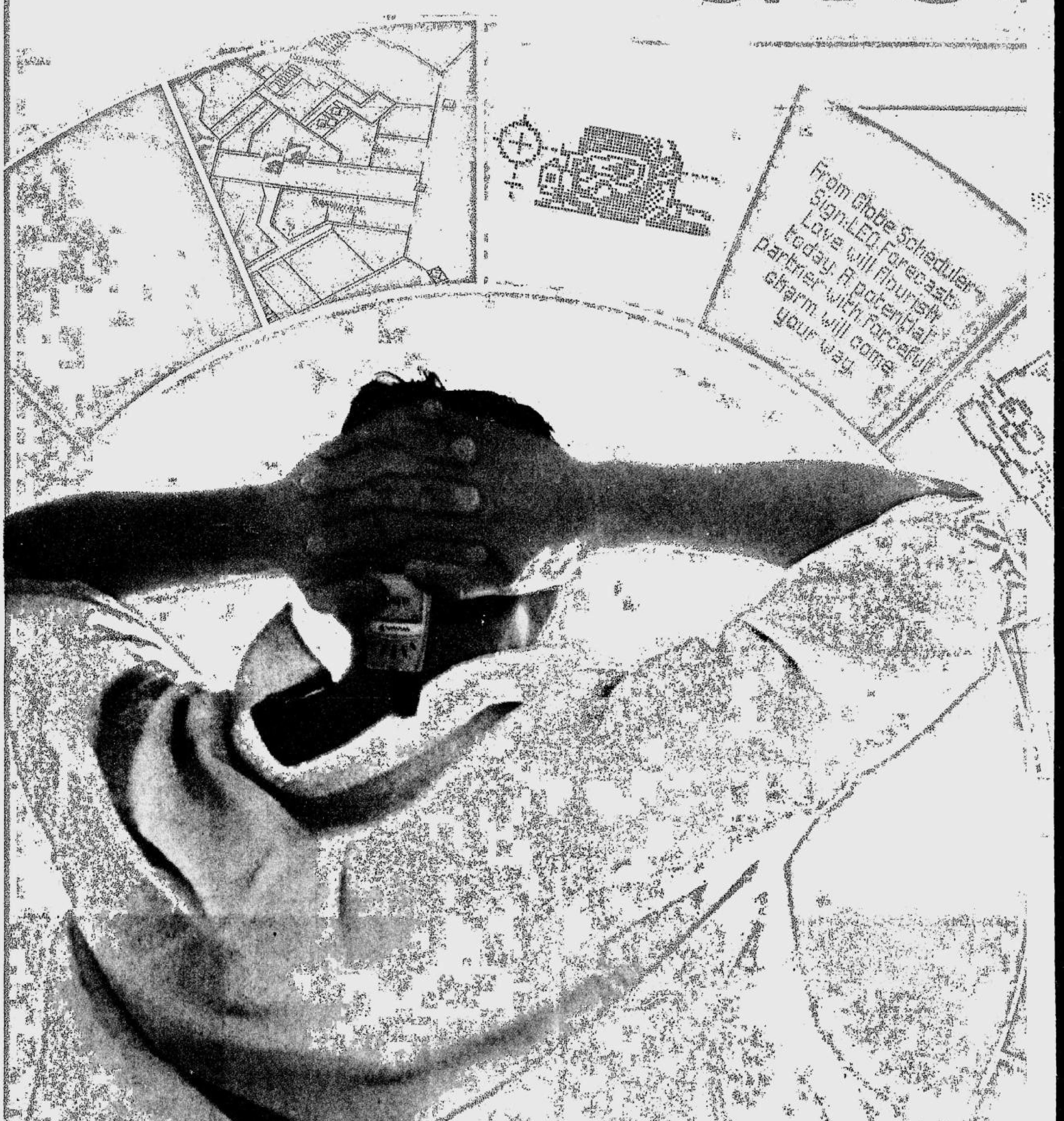
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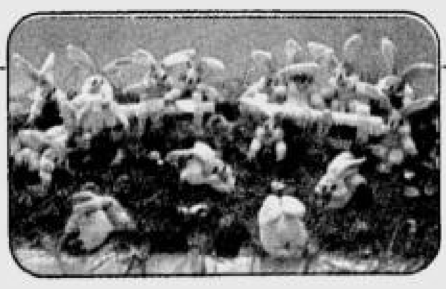
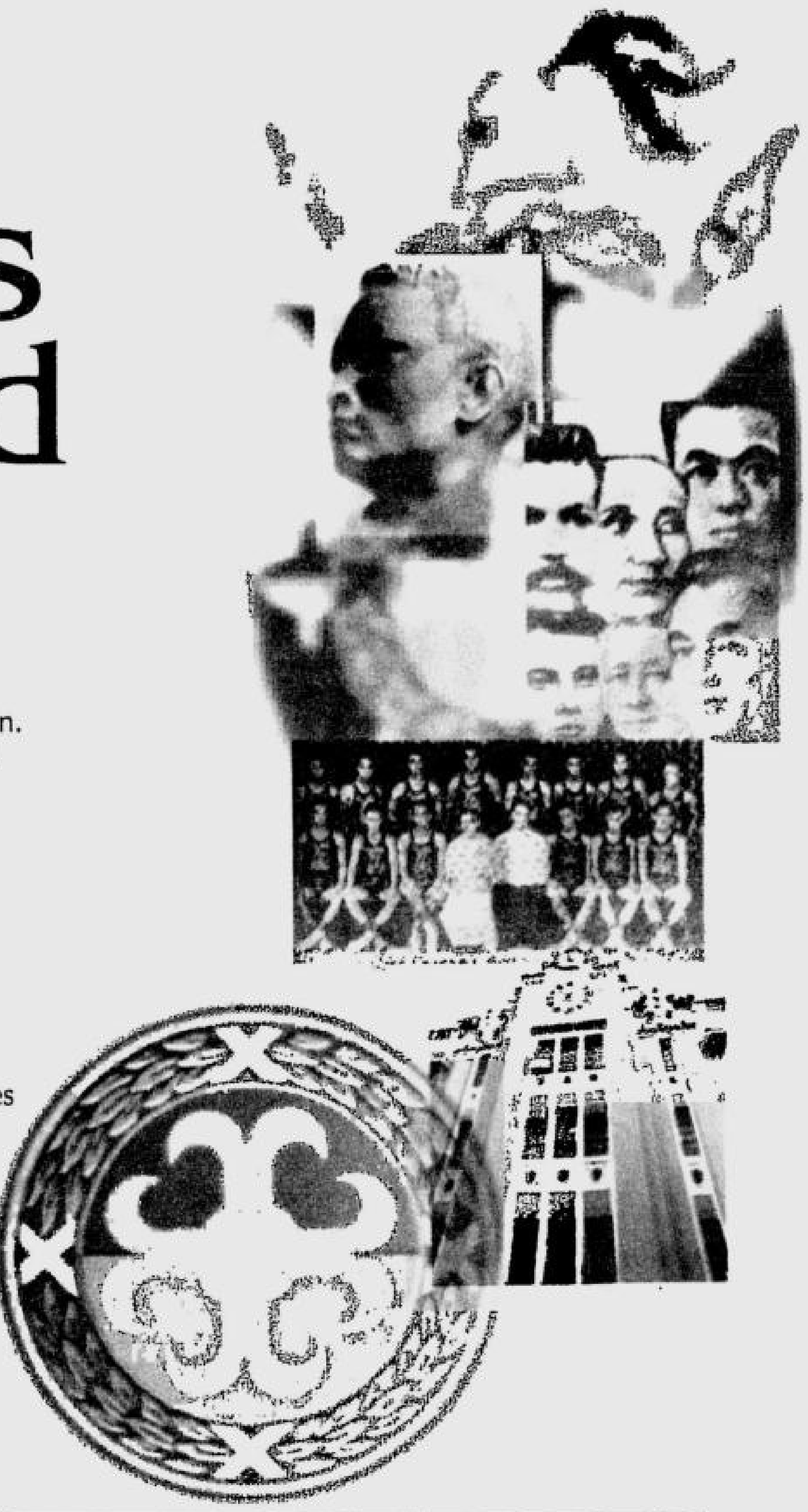
(From page C1)

	THE DEAL (in pesos)	FREEBIES AND KIDDIE TREATS	EASTER EVENTS
BAY AREA HOTEL Westin Philippine Plaza	P2500++ to P4500++ from April 9-12 P3500++ to P5500++ from April 13-15 for an overnight stay	Buffet breakfast for two; Westin kids club amenities; use of swimming pool and sports club; for April 13-15 late checkout until 6 p.m.; free entrance to Easter activities and magic show	Cookie Monster and Elmo make an appearance during the Easter Sunday festivities.
Pan Pacific Hotel	P3500 to P7000 depending upon the room for an overnight stay	Buffet breakfast for two and Easter egg souvenir; two complimentary tickets to Enchanted Kingdom	Pikachu makes an appearance at nearby Adriatico Square.
ORTIGAS Edsa Shangri-La Hotel	P5000++ will get you an overnight stay in a Superior Room for two nights or two rooms for one night. Up to three people can stay in the room	Buffet breakfast for two, one free kiddie bag and 15-percent off on Easter Sunday Fair tickets; dip in the lagoon-shaped swimming pool and free use of health club	Easter fair with egg-hunting, egg and face-painting, magic show, video games and raffle
Manila Galleria Suites	From April 9 -16, three nights or three rooms/night for P6000. Add a night or a room for an additional P1000.	Buffet breakfast for a family of four—two adults and two kids 12 years old and below. Use of pool and health club	Spend Good Friday viewing family movies and storytelling activities;The Easter bunny, Pikachu make an appearance during the Easter egg hunt (P700/ ticket for adults and P500/child inclusive of lunch)on Easter morning
MAKATI Makati Shangri-La	P4500++ for an overnight stay in a superior room for a family of four (two adults and two children under 12). Extra bed and free breakfast for children 6 years old and below.	Breakfast buffet for two persons at the Island Café; Use of pool and gym	Grand Easter Kiddie Party with morning Mass, Easter egg hunt, other festivities with Pikachu as special guest. Brunch party is priced at P950++/adult and P475++/child.
New World Renaissance Hotel	From April 6-16, accomodations in a deluxe room at P2800++ for an overnight stay, P2500++/night for two nights and P2000++ per night for three nights stay	Buffet breakfast for two at the Coffee Shop; use of gym, sauna and swimming pool	Easter wonderland at the ballroom with Wizzo the Magical Clown, a puppet show, Easter egg hunt and face painting
Dusit Hotel Nikko	From April 9-13, stay in a deluxe room for two nights (or two rooms for one night) at P5200 (inclusive of service charge and government taxes). April 14-16, rates are at P5800 for the same package	Buffet breakfast for two persons at the coffeeshop; Easter loot bags for the kids (maximum of two children per room); late checkout until 3 p.m.; free access to the Kiddie Game Room and Family Movie Room; two passes to the Easter egg hunt	On Sunday, an Easter Adventure Park with game booths, face-painting, magic show and clown acts; storytelling activities and mascot parade with Pikachu





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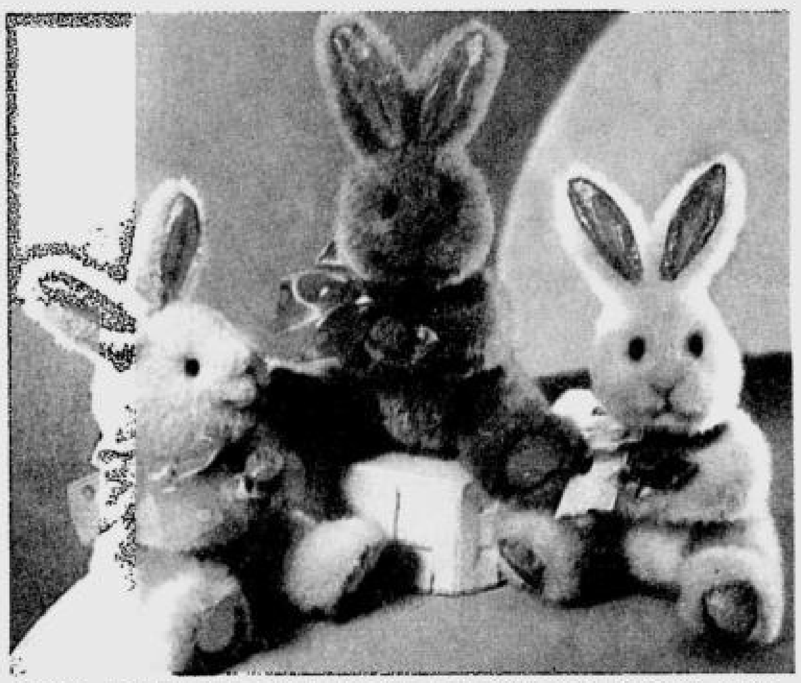

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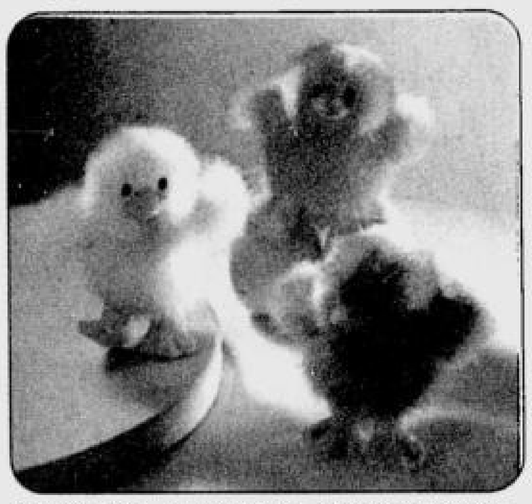

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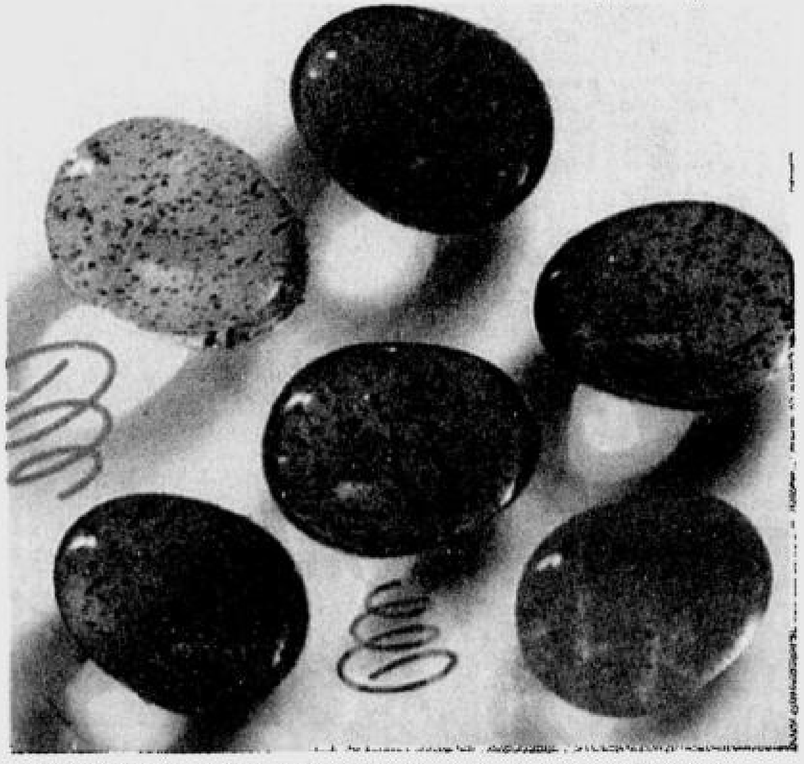


EGG-STRA SPECIAL BOUNCERS. Glittering bouncing eggs available in six wild colors

Bravo, Maestro Red Romero

Eulogy during the necrological Mass for Redentor Romero, April 1, 2001, Santuario de San Antonio

By Sophia Romero

TO MY father, timing was everything. He knew when it was time to walk in, he also knew when it was time to make a graceful and dignified bow. My father's illness was Manila's best-kept secret and he was very adamant about keeping it quiet because he didn't want to be the object of pity and curiosity nor be subjected to all kinds of questions about what he was going to do. For a man who lived his entire professional life in the public eye, my father was a deeply private person.

I also believed that while he wasn't going to deny the presence of an "alien" in his body, he wasn't going to allow it to define or take over his life. He pretty much looked at it as having a houseguest, albeit an overstaying, unwanted one: one just had to put up with it until it went away. Till the very end, my father truly believed, that just like many other battles before, he was going to win this one. And he almost did.

These last few days have just been very amazing: the sentimental tributes from musicians my father worked with, the outpouring of love and admiration from friends, relatives and the people who worked closely with my father. I'd like to thank all of you for celebrating my father's life. A life that was blessed with every gift, except the gift of time. For how and when we leave our earthly existence is not of our making or choosing. But what is up to us, what we *can* choose, is how our time shall be spent, how our lives shall be lived.

True warrior

My father chose well. My father didn't waste any time. He chose boldly, courageously, fearlessly, unencumbered by self-doubt, fired by a firm and resolute belief in his ability to make things happen, regardless of the odds stacked against him. The higher the odds, the better and inspired a fighter he became.

In this sense, my father was a true warrior. But his was not the battleground of bloodshed and wasted lives. On the contrary, his was the battle for the cultural and musical soul of our country. For lifting our collective lives and spirit to the sublime, beyond the mundane reality of our daily routines. He was armed only with his baton, his ammunition, the crystalline music that emanated from his violin. His sound was pure ether.

Now there is only silence. It is hard to imagine a concert stage without my father. He basked in it. He lived in it. He filled it. Whenever my father walked on stage, proud and confident in his tails, and began waving his baton or playing his violin, the world was transformed into pure magic.

He single-handedly and unselfishly led the National Philharmonic Society for 40 straight years, guided only by his singular, purposeful vision in his unique, indefatigable way. All he really ever wanted to do was to make music and that the music be heard from Basco to Jolo, from Tashkent to Carnegie Hall.

His death is the death of an era. Of a time when there was music for its own sake, untainted by the dictates and whims of those in power. By being the ultimate outsider, my father was in fact the ultimate insider.

Legacy

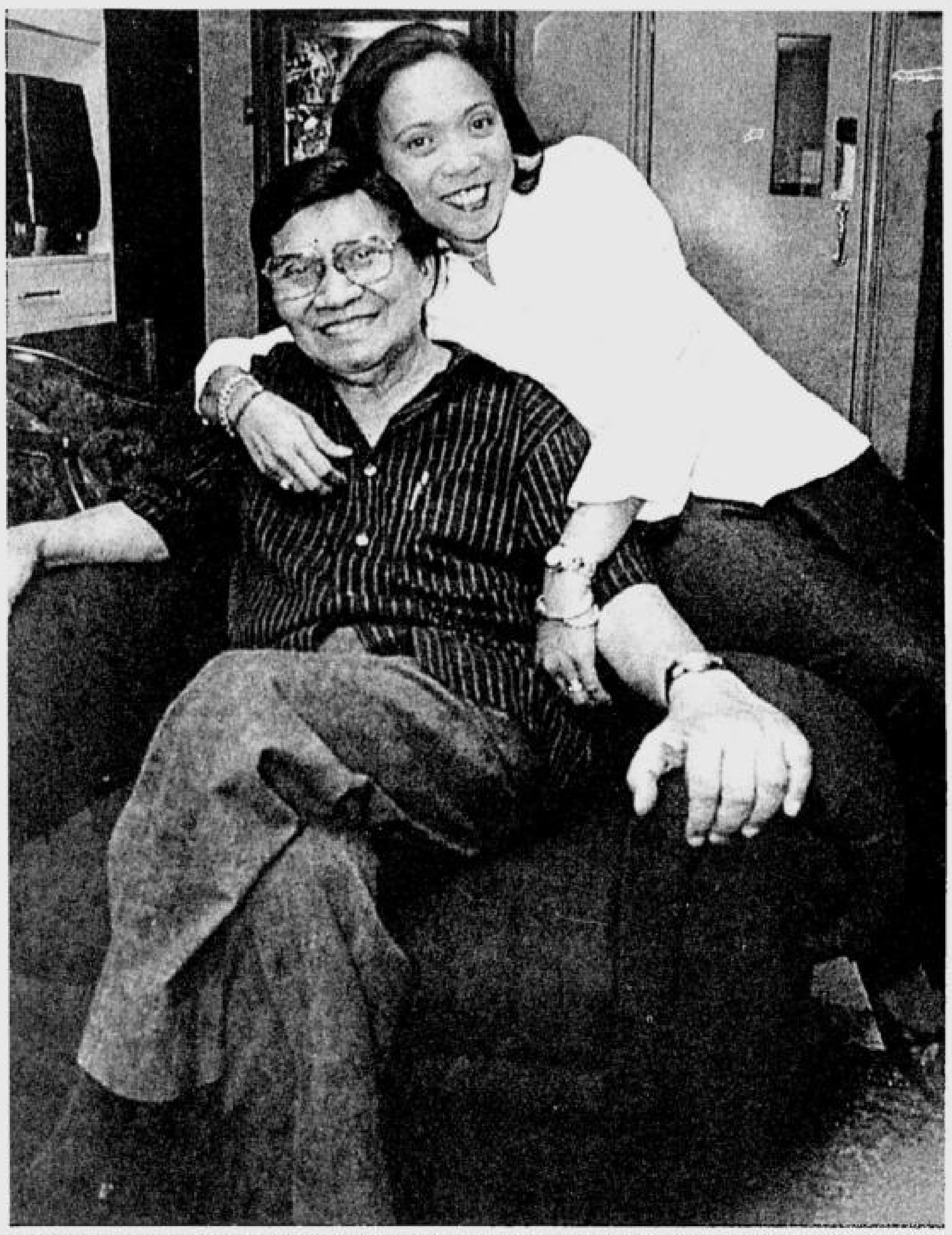
These past days, a lot of you have come up to me with the big question: What will happen to the Philharmonic? Realistically, without the presence and vision of its founder and leader, the answer to that question is painfully obvious. But my father would cringe at the thought.

I'd like to think that the sacrifices my father made for this country would not go unrewarded. That in one way or another, there will be a way to preserve and promote the musical heritage my father championed with so much passion that it consumed him completely. In his lifetime, he produced a major volume of musical recordings, orchestral arrangements and books for the future generations of musicians. This is his legacy. In his absence, the show must go on in one way or another. That's what he would have wanted. He didn't wage such a big fight only to come up empty-handed. You know my father: he never started anything that he couldn't finish. He proved that so clearly when even up to his last breath, he was conducting from his deathbed at the Makati Medical Center.

My father was a star and he shined brighter and longer than any other celestial being.

So now, as a final tribute to this man, let's all stand and give him one more round of applause for a job well done, and send him off to his next life with shouts of bravo!

> His death is the death of an era. Of a time when there was music for its own sake, untainted by the dictates and whims of those in power. By being the ultimate outsider, my father was in fact the ultimate insider



HAPPY TOGETHER. The author, a New York-based novelist, with her famous dad, photographed in his Makati condominium last October by the INQUIRER. The two kept from the public his worsening health.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

C	A	P	■	E	V	I	L	■	■	P	A	P	A	L	■	C	A	R	O	L
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For adults only

THE MIRIAM College Summer Adult Learning Program offers a non-degree course to adults 55 years of age and above this summer. Titled "Healthy Seniors: Understanding Your Changing Bodies," the program provides education to members of the community about healthy aging through lectures, discussions and activities delivered by experts in the field. Facilitator for the courses is Dr. Geoffrey Castillo, an expert practitioner in the field of geriatrics.

"Your Aging Bodies" will be discussed on April 16. Attendees will understand the changes that their bodies undergo, such as sensory, musculoskeletal and respiratory tract changes, as well as incontinence.

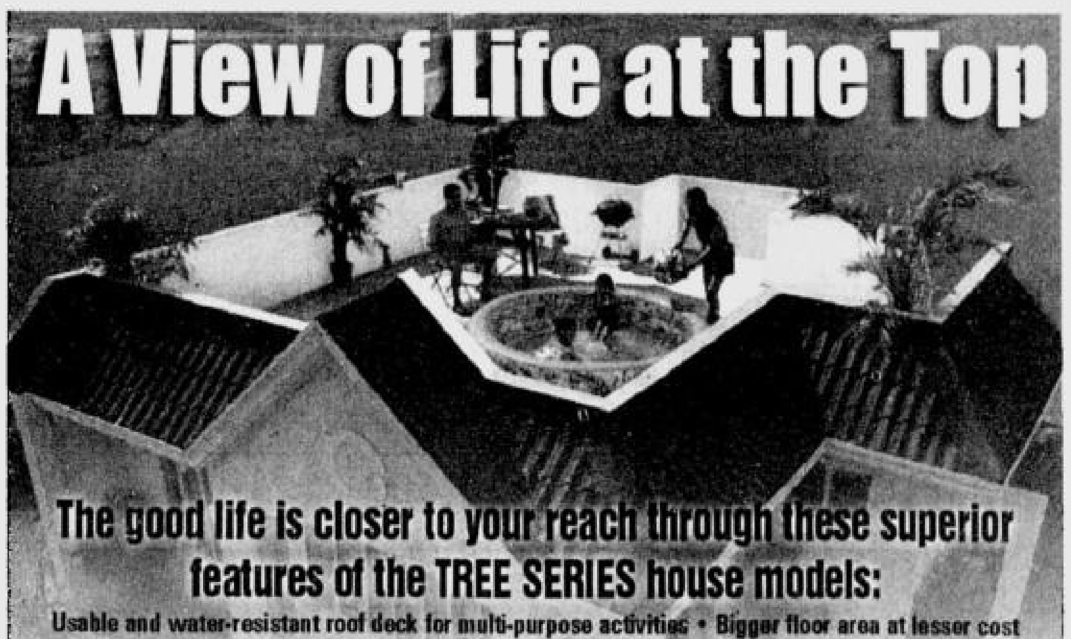
"Lifestyle Considerations: Making Your Home Senior-Friendly" will be tackled on April 20. Participants will be taught how to make the home environment comfortable and pleasant to elders including those with disabilities.

"Taking Care of Your Heart" will be discussed on April 23. Program participants will learn the basic mechanisms of the cardiovascular system and the age-related changes it undergoes. They will also learn some routine exercises that will help keep their heart muscles strong, increase flexibility of the veins and arteries and keep blood flowing well through the system.

The final session on April 27 will tackle the fundamentals of improving memory and coping with sleeping disorders.

All sessions will be held at 1-2:30 p.m. Package fee for the whole course is at P1,750, although participants may opt to enroll on a per session basis at P500/session. Call Laarni Zapanta at 927-2421 local 288/204 or 434-0950.

A View of Life at the Top



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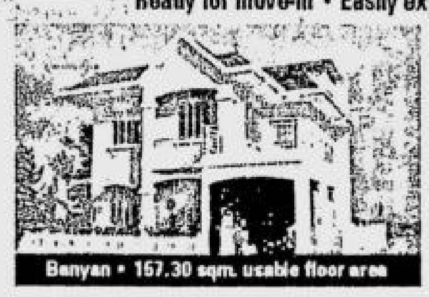

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HOLY WEEK STORE HOURS

April 12, 2001 Maundy Thursday	All DFP Stores/Outlets	9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
April 13, 2001 Good Friday	FiestaMall	Closed
	Mactan Airport	
	Pre-Departure	12 nn to 8 p.m.
	Departure	5:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
	Arrival	12:00 nn to 8:00 p.m.
	NAIA Terminal Departure Area Arrival Main Arrival Ramp	Regular store hours
	Terminal II Departure Arrival	Regular store hours
April 14, 2001 Black Saturday April 15, 2001 Easter Sunday	All DFP Stores/Outlets	Regular store hours

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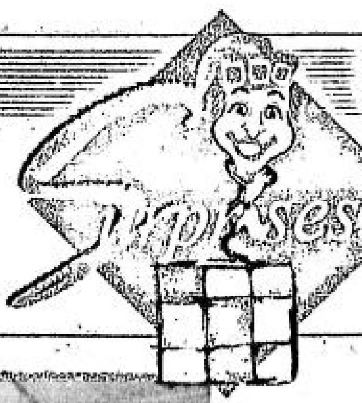

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ADRIAN Ramos and Ani Rosa Almario launch "Kuwentong Adarna" at Powerbooks. PHOTO: ROGER CARPIO

Two major bookstores are holding summer workshops to wean kids away from the TV and get them on the road to productive reading and other endeavors

The long, fun summer

By Alex Y. Vergara

CARTOON Network, Playstation and a huge, cool glass of pearl shakes—kiddie staples all. But there are a million other ways your kids can relish the summer aside from spending countless hours watching Scooby Doo on TV or sapping a computer-generated Wolverine with a joystick.

Powerbooks and Page One, two of the country's leading specialty bookstores, will hold for the first time their respective summer workshops for children this April.

Page One, located at the Rockwell's Power Plant Mall in Makati, kicks off the season with a four-week workshop from April 16-May 11. Sessions will run from 2-4 p.m., Mondays to Fridays at the children's area.

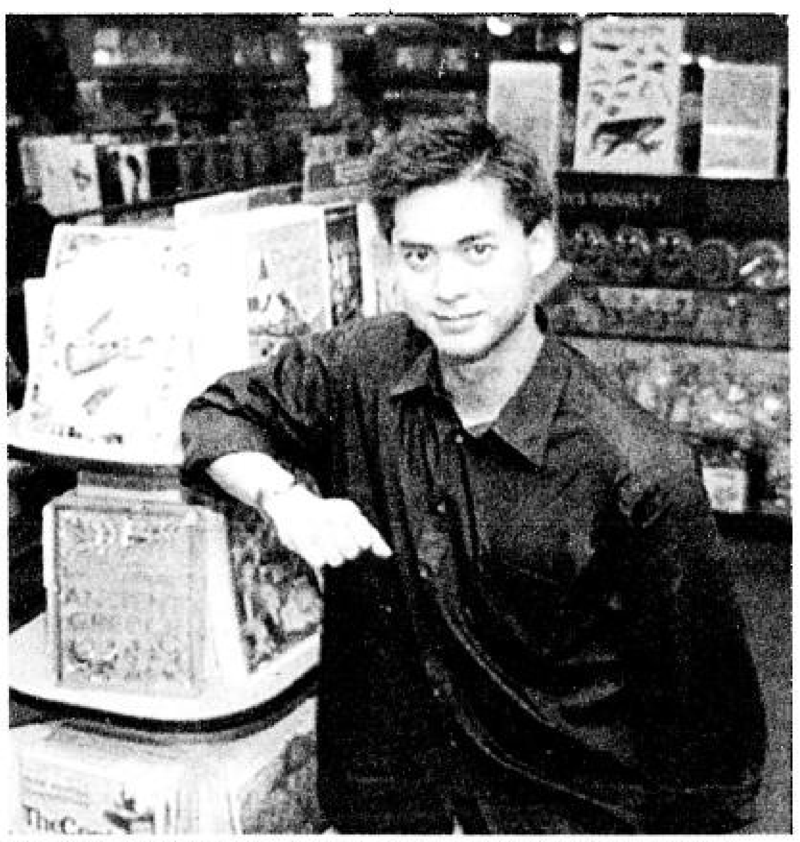
Powerbooks has tapped the assistance of Adarna House for its kiddie workshop dubbed "Kuwentong Adarna." It will run from April 18-May 5.

The first leg (April 18-21) will be held at Powerbooks' SM Megamall branch, the second (April 25-28), at the Pasay Road branch, and the third (May 2-5), at the Alabang Town Center branch.

Powerbooks has devoted mornings (10 a.m.-12 nn) to children aged 3-6, and afternoons (2-5 p.m.) to older ones aged 7-10. Page One's program is ideally designed for kids aged 6-11, but parents are welcome to bring kids as young as 4.

Since both companies deal with books, there will be plenty of days devoted to storytelling, but the two have also set aside certain dates for art classes—from mask to puppet making—related to the stories.

"Our package aims to keep kids interested all summer," says Jaime Daez, Page One managing director. "We have included other activities designed to liven up their summer. Art, after all, should be an integral part of every child's education. Not something children do when the teacher is away."


JAIME Daez of Page One promises to come up with ideal summer activities for kids. ROMY HOMILLADA

Childhood

Daez remembers vividly one particular summer he spent in a painting class. He was 9 then. He didn't become another Amorsolo or Botong Francisco, but the experience taught him to appreciate art at an early age.

"It was the first time in my life I drew using a canvas and easel," says the architecture graduate. "I'll never forget the experience."

Page One has also lined up so-called fun events such as balloon twisting, face painting, book making and a magic show, while Powerbooks has set aside a day for music appreciation.

"Learning is given a fun approach," says Ani Rosa Almario, product development officer of Adarna House, one of the country's leading publishers of children's books by Filipino writers.

"And if children learn something they like that way," adds Adrian Ramos, operations manager of Powerbooks, "chances are, they would be more into it."

Ramos literally grew up surrounded by books, since his family has been in the book business for decades through National Bookstore. His love affair with the written word resulted more from exposure, and not from a similar workshop Powerbooks is now offering.

"Summer learning is more fun because it is usually done outside school," he says.

Aside from their interactive aspect, both workshops are also designed to appeal to parents. It will be an occasion for them and their children to bond and share vivid memories long after summer has given way to rains.

Each of Powerbooks' four-day workshops, for instance, will culminate in a children's performance on the last day. Sure, parents are welcome to bring their ubiquitous Instamatics and Handycams to record the event.

Aside from experienced storyteller Dawn Zabala of the Alitaptap Storytelling Club, Daez and marketing supervisor Aissa Padilla have tapped the services of art teachers Pearl Ortega and Andre Quimpo and a group called Party Jam.

"They're not only gifted teachers, but people who can easily connect with kids," says Daez. "They know how to satisfy both kids and their parents."

Page One has classified the four-week workshop into: Week 1, Arts; Week 2, The World Around Us; Week 3, Magic and Mystery, and Week 4, Flights of Fancy.

Because of such factors as expense, safety and lack of venues, month-long summer camps so fashionable in America are barely offered here in the Philippines. In their absence are summer workshops and so-called clinics.

Parents can either pay for the entire Page One package (P1,500) or for certain topics (P200 per day) their kids want to attend. What if the child is unable to complete the entire four weeks? Then parents can send another child in his or her place.

Powerbooks' four-day seminar (P360) for both age groups is also classified into specific themes: Day 1, Myself; Day 2, My Family and Friends; Day 3, My Community and the Environment; and Day 4, My Country.

Economical

In Page One's case, it's more economical for parents to avail their kids of the entire package rather than pay for them on a daily basis. Perhaps, in its desire to keep children from skipping certain days, Powerbooks doesn't offer a similar arrangement.

Both Daez and Ramos claim that such an activity is no moneymaking venture. Apart from promoting brand awareness, their primary aim is to build long-term relationships with young readers.

"More than anything else," says Daez, "It allows parents to give their children productive and creative alternatives to spend their summers."

Almario views such activities as ideal venues to promote Adarna's books and gain direct response from its target readers. Storytellers led by Kuya Bodgie (Pascua) and Melody Remorca will read tales from Adarna's Pilandok series, "Alamat ng Ampalaya" and "Pambihirang Buhok ni Raquel."

Adarna has hosted around 10 such workshops in its 20-year history of selling children's books. This, however, marks the first time it has teamed up with Powerbooks.

"We used to conduct these activities at our Quezon City office," she says. "Now we have a bigger, more accessible venue to do it."

Page One has yet to come up with a final list of books. Only new titles from the bookstore's children's section will be read, Padilla says.

Certain participants maybe in for a disappointment, though. Both Page One and Powerbooks have excluded Harry Potter's exploits from their respective programs. Might as well since young readers have all the time in the world to read all four installments this summer.

Call Page One (Sherin, Shasha or Armand) at 756-0001 or e-mail page1_pp@ pageonebookshop.com; Powerbooks at 844-4455 (Pasay Road), 635-2899 (SM Megamall) and 850-5662 (Alabang Town Center), and Adarna House at 410-5200 or e-mail marketing@adarna.com.ph

E-mail the author at avergara@ inquirer.com.ph

ONLY new titles from Page One, says Aissa Padilla. ROMY HOMILLADA

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   - Press 6 for "Please come home early"
   - Press 7 for "Please don't forget my bilin! Thanks."
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3. Enter sender's name or send right away. Voice prompt will confirm if message is sent.

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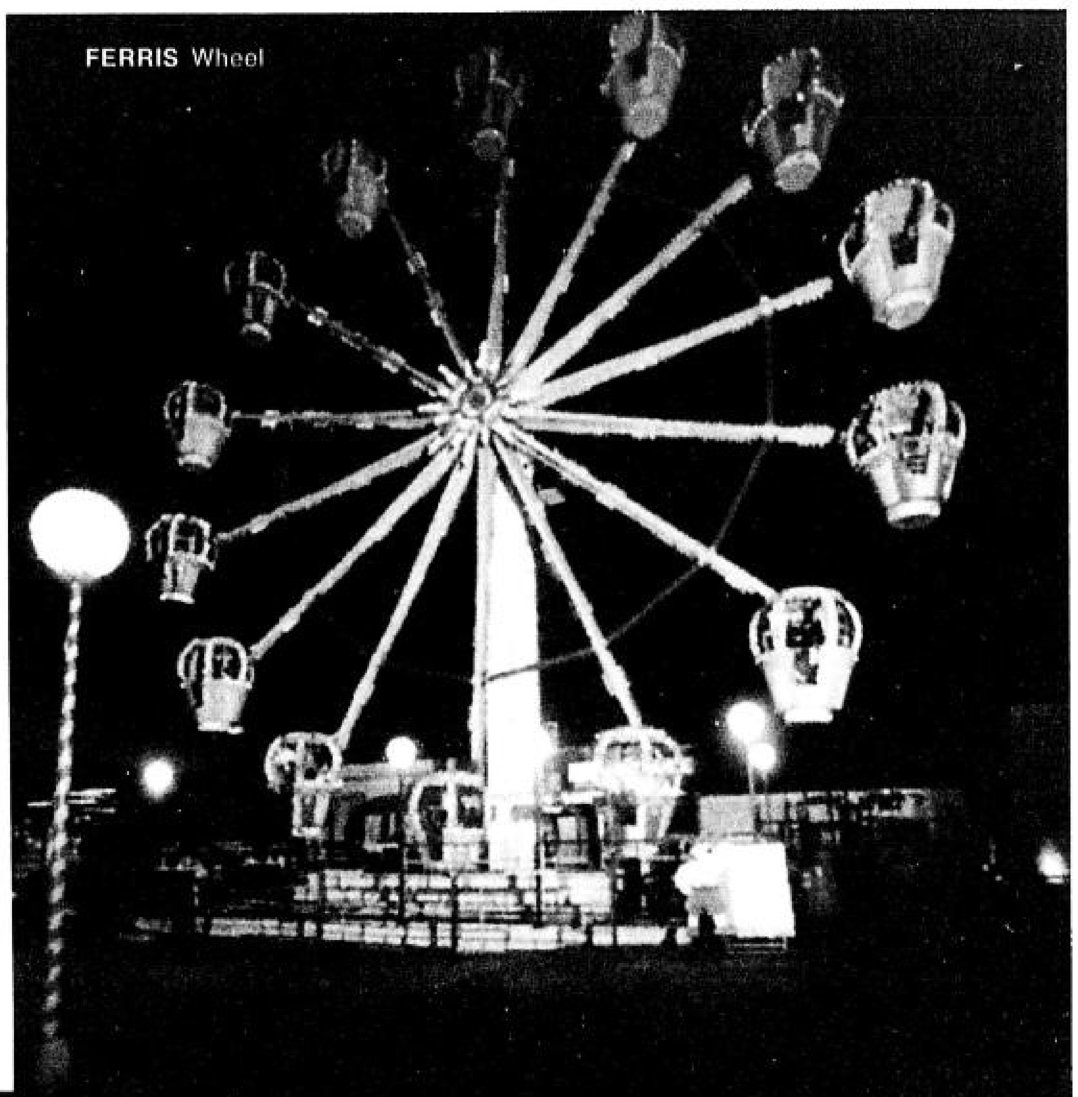
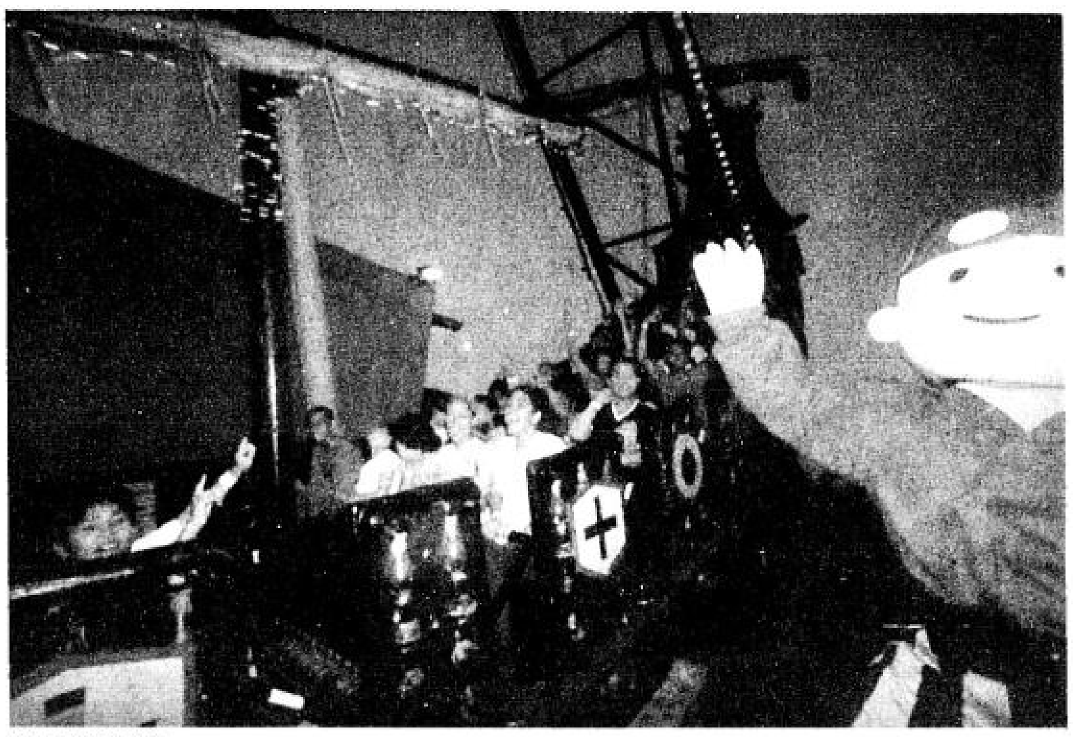
The country's first theme park promises crazy but safe fun for the family



FERRIS Wheel

Starry, starry rides

ZYKLOON Loop



THE VIKING

WESTERN Ghost Town

TURNING 10 this year, Star City is the country's first theme park and has set the standards in fun and amusement geared especially for local patrons.

"Star City is centered on the Filipino family and caters to all its members, not just the kids," says Star Parks Corporation EVP George Goduco. "Everything they need for an instant holiday is here. We have all the features of an international theme park, as well as additional perks of retail and shopping and a wide selection of food outlets, all available at very affordable prices."

And because the Filipino concept of family is usually measured by the jeepload, Star City makes sure everyone can share in the enjoyment by giving the *pamilyang* Pinoy more fun at less cost. Throughout the summer months until May 27, revelers can visit Star City from 4 p.m. onwards and avail of the "Ride-All-You-Can" tickets for only P150 and the student special with valid school IDs for P100. This entitles revelers to unlimited access to rides and walk-through attractions for an all-afternoon, all-night spree.

"We don't want to count anyone out, so we make sure our admission and rides are within the reach of the average family's budget," Goduco continues. Aside from the very reasonably priced rides, Star City patrons also have the options of just paying for the P20 entrance fee and still be part of the action, either by purchasing tickets per ride, or just enjoying the complex's other unique features and amenities.

Goduco adds that because it is focused on the family, Star City assures its patrons of safety and value for money.

Wild rides, safe fun

Over the years, Star City has continuously expanded by regularly adding new rides and attractions. Right now, Star City has about 30 rides and walk-through attractions that cater to various age groups. The best thing is, they can just relax and enjoy the ride because all of the machines have been found in excellent condition and in accordance with international safety standards.

California-based amusement ride and attraction safety and maintenance specialist Philip Lindquist, whose clients include Disneyland, has been tasked to make sure that all the rides and attractions conform to top standards. In between his annual inspection visits, Star City maintains a team of licensed engineers to supervise maintenance on a daily basis.

"We never leave anything to chance," says Goduco, who adds that this attitude is likewise reflected in their customer service. "Safety and satisfaction are our priorities. If there's one child crying, we'll immediately stop the ride and let him off, then just do the whole round again. We don't compromise."

Star City is home to the country's first Wild River Ride. It is also known for a number of other exciting attractions, like the 360° Zykloon Loop (definitely not for the faint of heart), the breathtaking Blizzard and the Super Viking, to name a few.

Younger kids always make a beeline for fantasy rides like the two-tiered French Grand Carousel and the Rodeo, bumper boats and cars, and the delightful Stars Around the World ride created by noted stage designer Mio Infante and set to original music by fellow theater artist Ian Monsod. The scary walk-through, Western Ghost Town, on the other hand, was designed by no less than multiawarded film director Peque Gallaga.

"We really put a premium on taking professionals on board, whether in designing, constructing or maintaining our rides and attractions," explains Goduco. As general policy, Star City works in consultation with leading specialists in the fields of leisure, amusement and retail. And although it is backed by a team of foreign consultants, Star City maintains an atmosphere that is truly Filipino.

"Our target market has always been the local crowd," says the theme park executive. "That's why everything revolves around the taste, needs and budget of the *pamilyang* Pinoy."

Added attractions

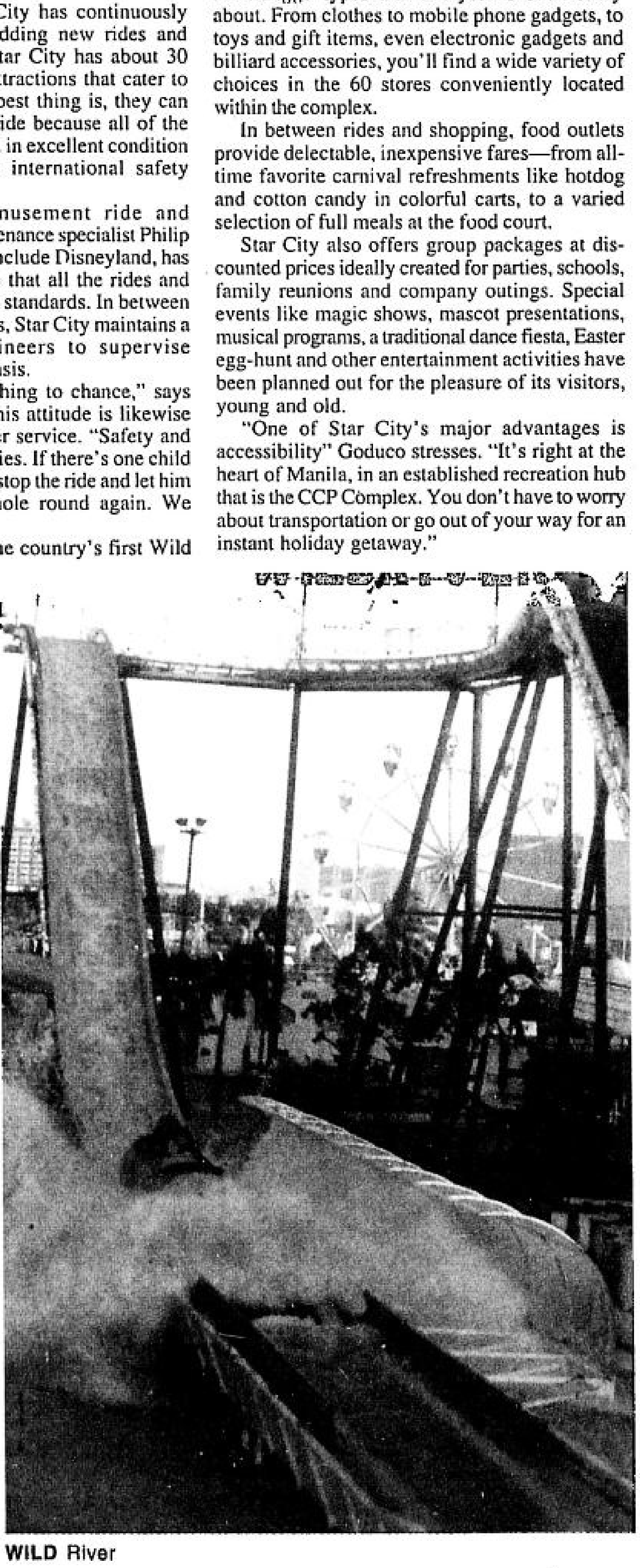
True to its pioneering nature, Star City was also the first to introduce the concept of mixing retail with amusement.

The shops you'll find in Star City are mostly the *tiangge* types that everyone's been crazy about. From clothes to mobile phone gadgets, to toys and gift items, even electronic gadgets and billiard accessories, you'll find a wide variety of choices in the 60 stores conveniently located within the complex.

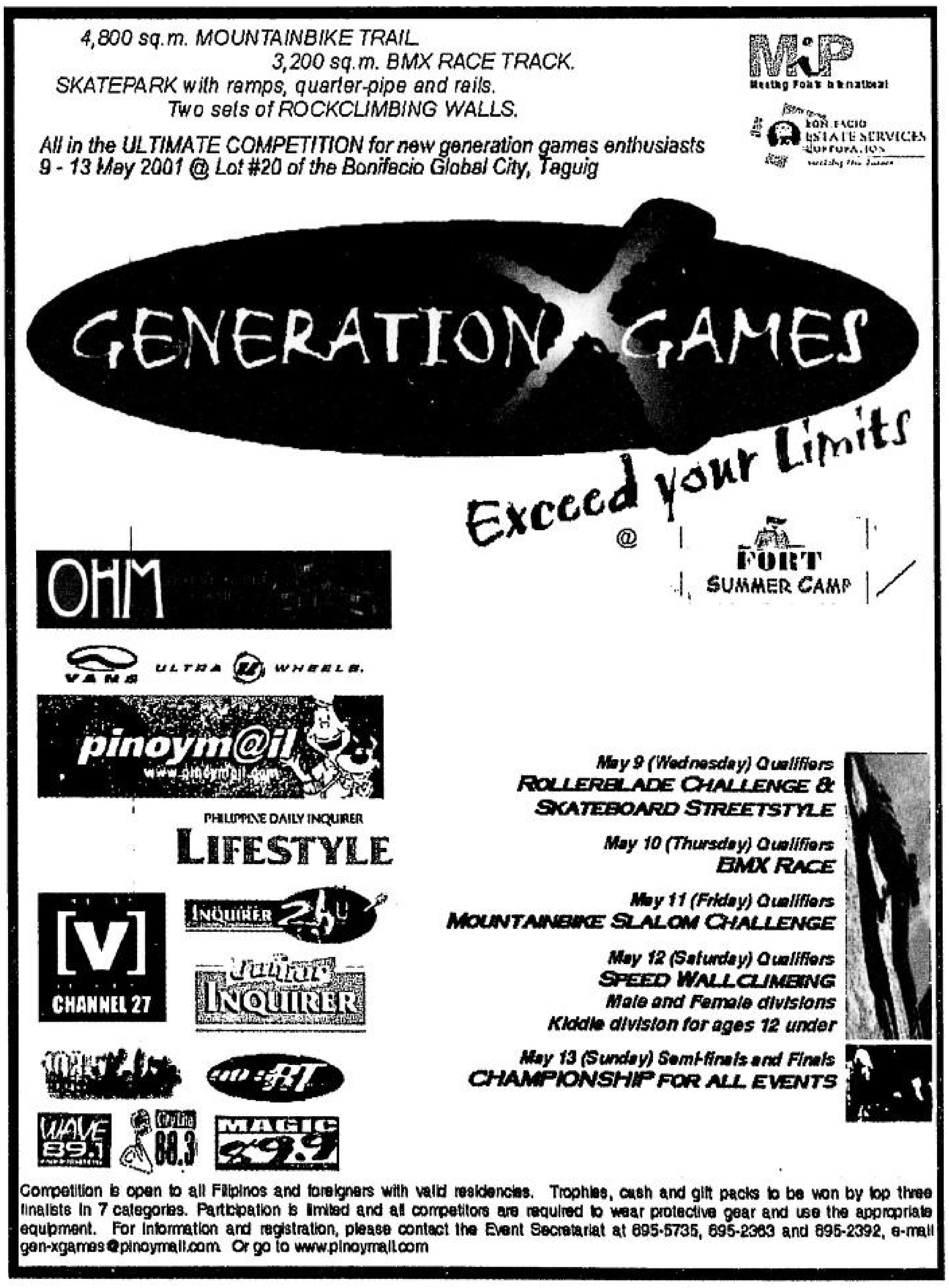
In between rides and shopping, food outlets provide delectable, inexpensive fares—from all-time favorite carnival refreshments like hotdog and cotton candy in colorful carts, to a varied selection of full meals at the food court.

Star City also offers group packages at discounted prices ideally created for parties, schools, family reunions and company outings. Special events like magic shows, mascot presentations, musical programs, a traditional dance fiesta, Easter egg-hunt and other entertainment activities have been planned out for the pleasure of its visitors, young and old.

"One of Star City's major advantages is accessibility" Goduco stresses. "It's right at the heart of Manila, in an established recreation hub that is the CCP Complex. You don't have to worry about transportation or go out of your way for an instant holiday getaway."



WILD River



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May 11 (Friday) Qualifiers
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May 12 (Saturday) Qualifiers
SPEED WALLCLIMBING
Male and Female divisions
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May 13 (Sunday) Semi-finals and Finals
CHAMPIONSHIP FOR ALL EVENTS

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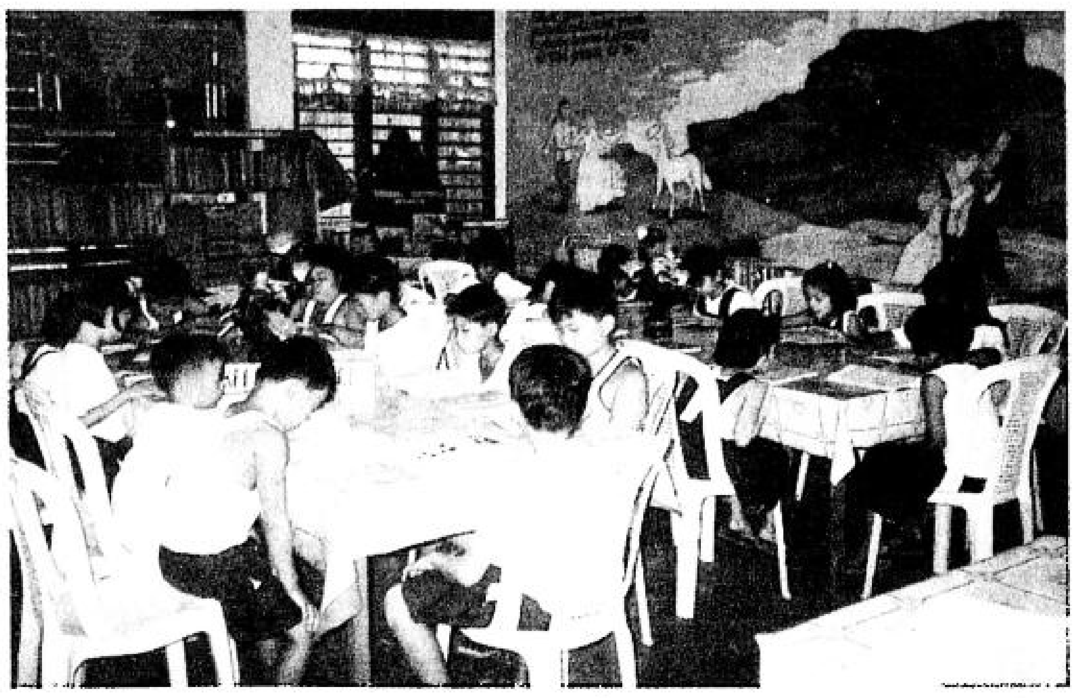
BARANGAY Pansol's neighborhood kids spend an interesting and lively afternoon with librarian Lilia Malabanan and Councilor Rommel Asuncion.



ONE of the recipients of the Donate a Book project is the Camuning Elementary School in Mexico, Pampanga.

Give a book and light up young minds

SM Foundation, together with its project partner GMA Foundation, has launched its annual Donate a Book project at all SM supermalls.

Until April 30, shoppers can share their knowledge, wisdom and hope with less fortunate children by donating their old books to the campaign. These will be turned over to public elementary and high school libraries as well as reading camps. Each donation entitles one to a cash coupon from the SM Department Store's Stationery Department.

Over the past three years, SM Foundation's Donate a Book project has collected over a million books and other educational materials which were in turn distributed to 2,500 public school libraries, day-care centers and barangay libraries nationwide.

SM revisited some of last year's recipient schools, and donors will be happy to know that the books they have so generously shared have gone a long way in helping not only the children, but faculty members as well.

This year's project aims to collect books and reference materials for public school and barangay libaries, day-care centers and reading camps. Donations may be brought to booths at all SM Supermalls until the end of this month.

LAGRO High School-Maligaya Park annex principal Ms Victoria Mortel (right) shows some of the essential reference books their library received from the Donate a Book project to Barangay Pasong Putik Councilor Cora Manarang.

MS Florence Bargo checks out the selection of books the Del Gallego Central School received from the Donate a Book project.

SM Foundation project director Cristie Angeles (right) with Pampanga Provincial Library's (from left) Elisa Mangilit, Shirley Belen, Bessie Makabali, Dante Miranda and Roberto Tolentino

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3rd Prize
20 winners of P5,000

1st Prize
4 Trips for 4 to Bali, Indonesia + $200
2nd Prize
4 Trips for 4 to Hotel Fleuris, Pulawan + P5,000
3rd Prize
20 winners of P5,000

Put those shades on 'cause Nestle and Goya are taking you to the best beaches here and abroad. All you need is one wrapper for a chance to win cash or exotic holiday packages. Hot stuff!

MECHANICS OF THE
"NESTLE SUMMER GETAWAY" PROMOTION

HERE'S HOW

1. Write your name, address, telephone number, and signature on a piece of paper.
2. Attach this to a single wrapper, label, or pouch of any of the following Nestle or Goya Confectionery products: Kit Kat, Nestle Classic Milk Chocolate, Nestle Classic Eclairs, Fox's, Goya Chocolate Coins, Goya Cubes, Goya Silver Cup, Goya Golden Crown.
3. Drop your entries at the NESTLE SUMMER GETAWAY drop boxes at designated Supermarkets and Groceries.
4. Or you may send your entries to any of the following:
   a) Goya, Inc., 23 M. Tuazon St., Parang Marikina City
   b) Nestle Philippines, Inc., 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City
   c) Or any Nestle office near you.
5. Draw date is on July 7, 2001 and Cut off date is on June 30, 2001.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. All prizes are tax free.
2. All prizes are not convertible to cash but transferable.
3. Total prize to be given away per region (GMA, LUZ, VIS, MIN) are as follows:

Adults	1st Prize	Trip for 2 to Pacific Island Club, Saipan + $200.00
	2nd Prize	Trip for 2 to Pearl Farm, Davao + P5,000.00
	3rd Prize	5 x P5,000.00
Family	1st Prize	Trip for 4 to Bali, Indonesia + $200.00
	2nd Prize	Trip for 4 to Palawan + P5,000.00
	3rd Prize	5 x P5,000.00

4. Draw date is on the 7th of July 2001.
5. Entries will be drawn per showcase per region.
6. The first valid entry drawn in each showcase per region will be declared as the winner.
7. A winner can only win once per showcase per draw. However, a person can win in another showcase in the same draw.
8. Three-fourths of the wrapper, label, pouches or cap must be intact to qualify as an entry.
9. All raffle promotion winners will be notified via telegram, which will indicate how and where they may claim their prizes. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from the date of receipt of telegram shall be forfeited only upon approval of DOH-BFAD.
10. Winners must present any two valid identification papers among the following along with the original telegram of notice when claiming their prizes: Company ID, Birth Certificate, NBI Clearance, Passport, Marriage, Driver's license or SSS ID.
11. A winner for a particular region must be a resident of the area of coverage.
12. All prizes are transferable provided claimants present the following: Letter of authorization from winner, any two valid identification papers or IDs of winner, any two valid identification papers or IDs of claimant and original telegram sent by Goya, Inc.
13. Prizes are subject to availability. Should a stated prize be unavailable for whatsoever reason, Goya, Inc. reserves the right to substitute the prize with another of similar value as deemed suitable by Goya, Inc.
14. Winners can claim their prizes at the nearest Nestle office on the date indicated in the telegram.
15. All winners will shoulder travel/transportation expenses incurred in the course of claiming their prizes.
16. An authorized representative from the Bureau of Food and Drugs will be present to supervise the raffle draw.
17. Goya, Inc.'s decision in concurrence with the DOH-BFAD is deemed final.
18. Nestle reserves the right to publish the names and/or photographs of winners for advertising and publicity purposes. All winners will be notified by mail.
19. All employees of Goya, Inc., Nestle Philippines, Inc., its advertising and promotion agencies, its packaging supplier, their spouses and relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are not qualified to join.

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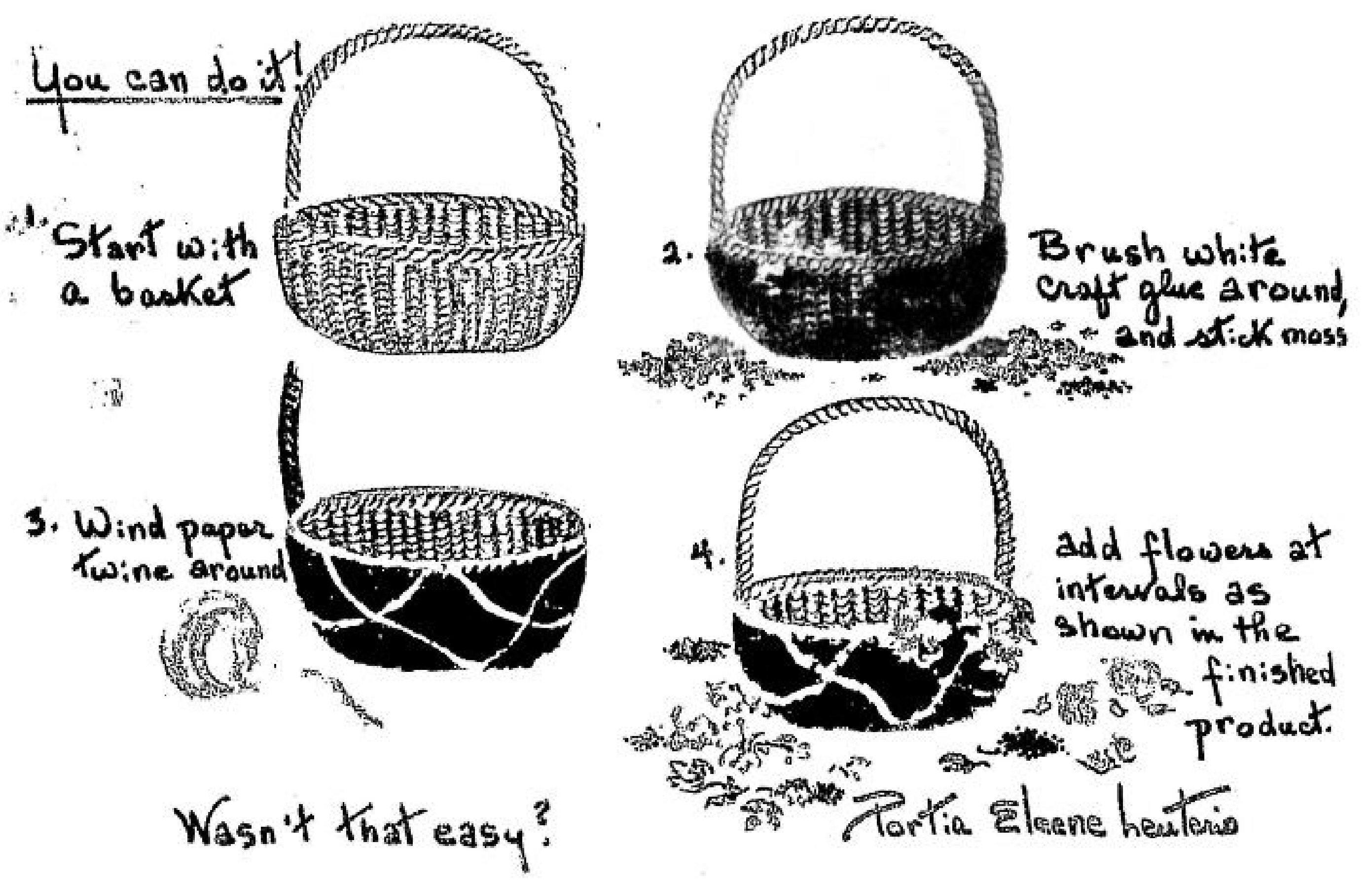
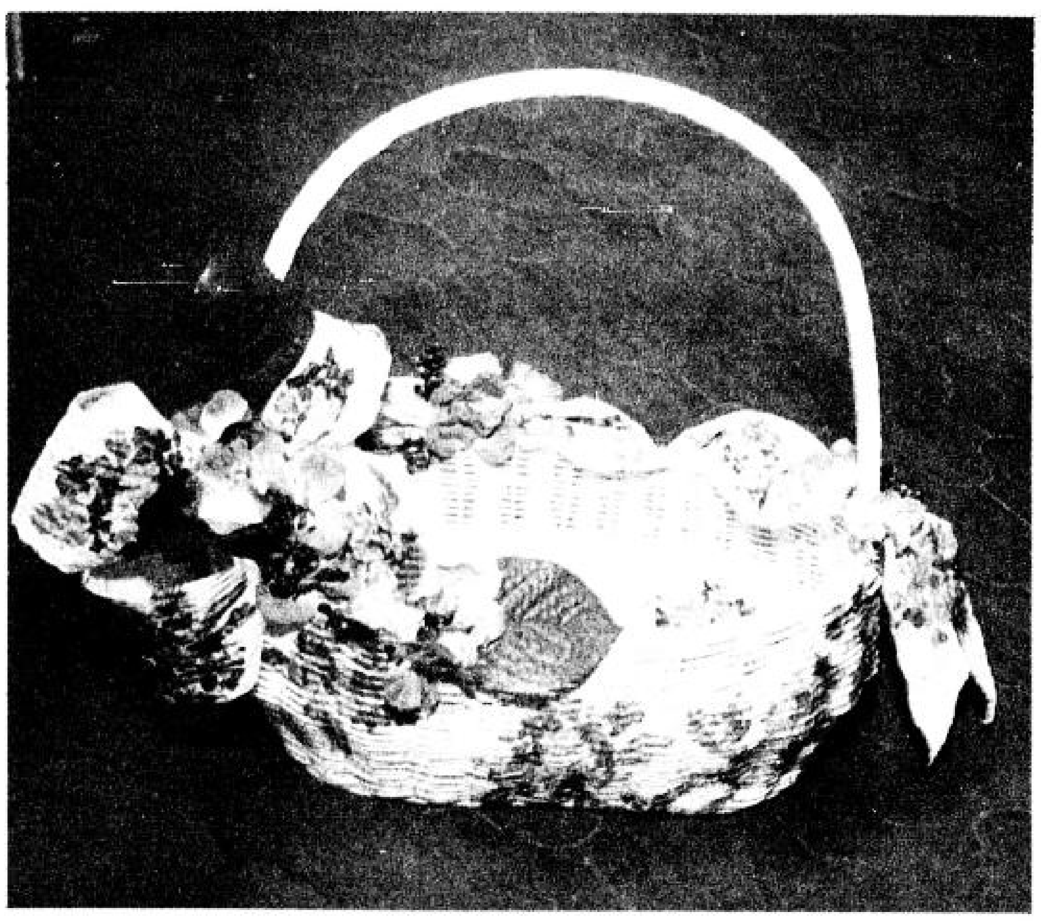

You can do it!
1. Start with a basket
2. Brush white craft glue around, and stick moss
3. Wind paper twine around
4. add flowers at intervals as shown in the finished product.
Wasn't that easy?
Portia Eleene Leuterio



COUNTRY basket découpaged to look like painted flowers

A-tisket, a-tasket and it's a basket

GARDEN basket mossed and strung with paper twine, flowers and birds

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

HOW would you like to create beautiful baskets adorned with laces, ribbons and florets in time for Easter? Artist Portia Eleene Leuterio of Endearments will teach you how.

Portia starts her new series of craft courses for this year. Courses offered include decorative baskets, wedding accessories, bounding things, country chic crafts, gift-giving and creative packaging, gifts to make I and II, homecrafts I and II, party pops and favors, preserving mementos, Victorian crafts, wacky fun crafts, Christmas crafts (heirloom collection) and Christmas crafts (Victorian collection).

In the decorative basket class, students will create different kinds of baskets for each session and learn how to do sponge painting, ribbon and flower crafts, bounding with fabrics, découpage, to name a few. In home crafts, Portia teaches how to make fabric flowers, easy quilting, vanity frames, fabric frames and fancy towels. For preserving mementos, students will learn to make memory boxes out of their photos, memorabilia and scrapbooks.

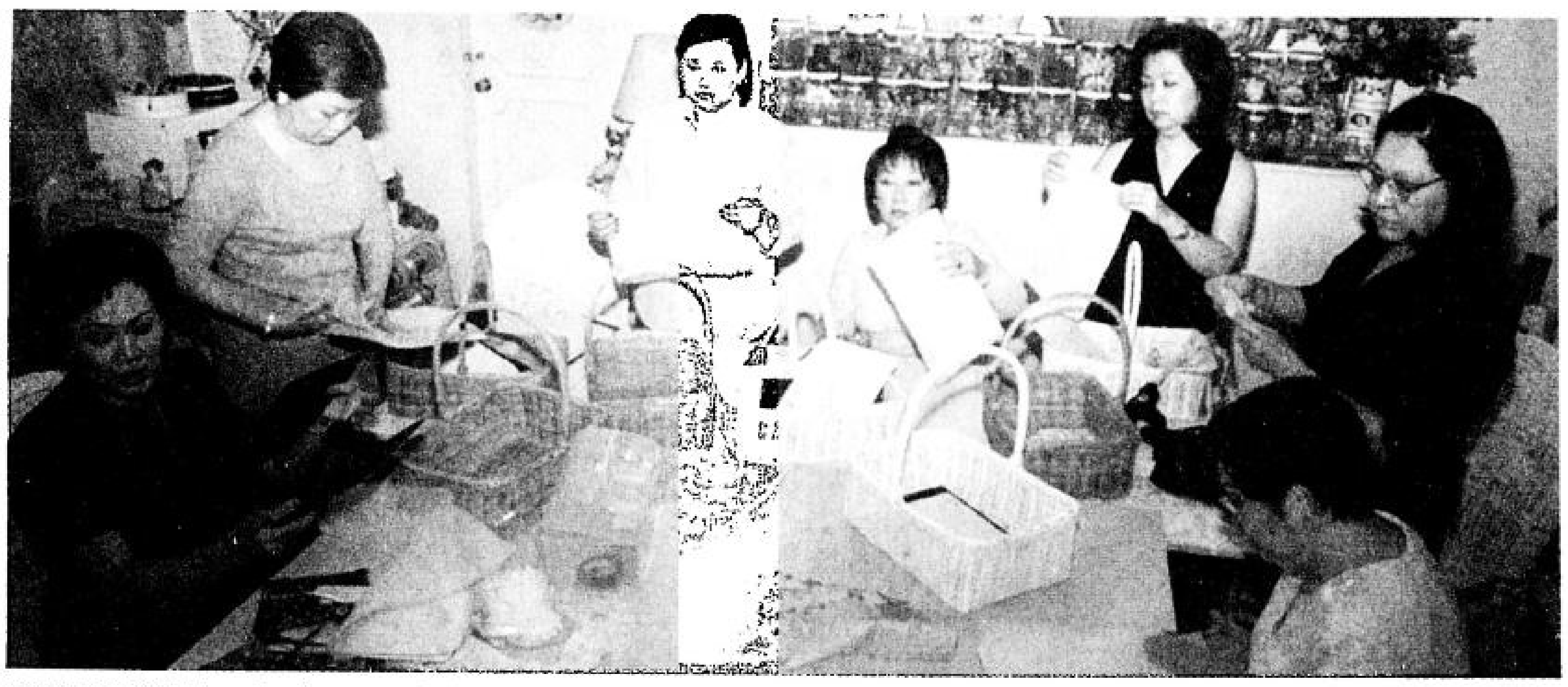
Young people can learn how to make paper bags and paper handbags. Out of the "gifts to make" class come hair ribbons, hair accessories, barrettes and headbands, pin cushions, bottle crafts, dress-up journals and band boxes. Most exciting of all is the wedding accessories course where crafters are taught how to make baskets for flower girls, cushions for bridal rings, garters, hair pieces and guest books.

Classes are small and intimate "with an ambience that will make you feel more creative," assures Portia. Each course is on a first-come first-served basis and runs from 2-5:30 p.m. for five sessions. For inquiries, call Endearments at 895-2148.

Women don't realize how much creativity is within them, says Portia, who was educated abroad and attended prestigious art schools, such as The Parsons School of Design, The National Academy of Design and The Arts Students League. Unleashing these skills is what she aims to do.

Here, Portia shares an easy-to-follow guide on making a decorative basket called The Spring Basket.

VICTORIAN hamper dressed in moiré and embellished with laces, ribbons and florets



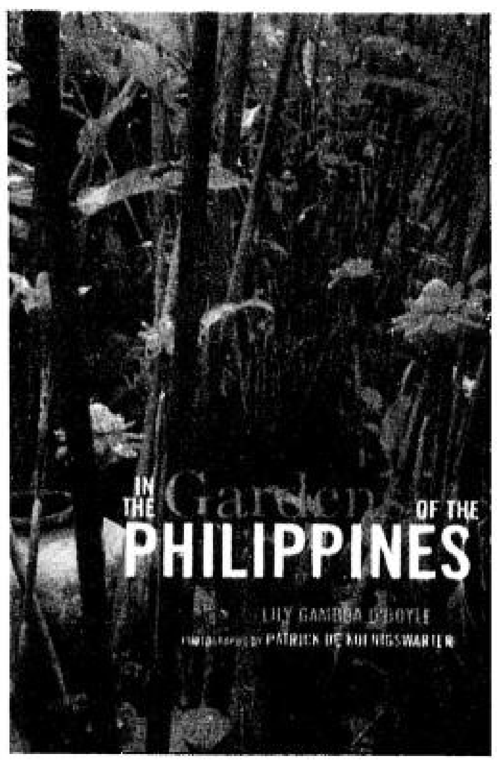
IN THE BASKET. Learning how to make decorative baskets the Endearments way are (from left) Jeanne Yao, Lilibeth Vistan, Chita Araw, Brenda Tanjutco, Cecille Yasay, Jane Enrile and Nati Alejandrino.

US launching of acclaimed book on RP gardens

THE BEST-SELLING publication "In the Gardens of the Philippines" will be launched in the North American market at a fund-raising dinner benefit hosted by the Horticultural Society of New York (HSNY) on April 10 to be held at the New York Tennis and Racquet Club, according to Bonjin Bolinao, president of Acacia Book Company Inc., publishers of the coffee-table book.

"In the Gardens of the Philippines" is authored by New York-based Filipina writer Lily Gamboa O'Boyle with photographs by Baron Patrick de Koenigswarter. The book features on its cover the garden of Manila's fashion and landscape designer Ernest Santiago de Manila and includes other equally stunning gardens in the country today, some of which have never been photographed before.

Featured are flower gardens that glow with the passion of the tropics, oriental gardens that mirror those of neighboring countries yet reflect a true Philippine spirit, collectors' gardens filled with rare and exotic plants, water gardens that marry rock and stone and modern gardens of the world in arrangements that blend the traditions of many countries and culture.



In addition to the April 10 event, O'Boyle has also been chosen vice chair of the HSNY's event, "Flowers in Design and Fashion," on May 2. To be hosted at the William Switzer Showroom, the event is a toast to the world's top fashion designers and floral stylists. The occasion will showcase the brilliant design of Filipino stylist Ernest Santiago of a Philippine table inspired by exotic flowering plants indigenous to the country. Sponsors of the Philippine participation in this prestigious event include Philippine Airlines and Acacia Book.

The cross in the heart of the world

BY FR. MARCIANO M. GUZMAN

IT was Aug. 7, 1931. A 29-year-old priest was celebrating Mass in Madrid on the feast of the Lord's Transfiguration.

As the priest raised the consecrated host, God made him understand, in a clear and striking manner, the new and deeper meaning of certain words from the gospel. The text comes from St. John: "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all things to myself." (John 12:32).

The young priest was Blessed Josemaria Escriva who was ordained on March 28, 1925. On Oct. 2, 1928, God made him see an important mission He wanted him to accomplish. He was to be God's instrument to remind millions of men and women that God wants them to achieve holiness right in the middle of the world by diligently carrying out their everyday work and ordinary duties. That was how Opus Dei started.

Within

The passage from St John's gospel has it's own literal meaning. As the evangelist himself commented in the subsequent verse, "by these words he indicated the kind of death he would die" (John 12:32). Christ pronounced these words as his Passion and Death drew near. They presaged the redemptive efficacy of his sacrifice, when he would be raised on a cross at the summit of Calvary. But the divine light Blessed Josemaria Escriva perceived during that occasion went beyond this literal meaning. He himself wrote: "I understood that it would be men and women of God who would raise the Cross with the doctrines of Christ on the summit of all human activities... And I saw the Lord triumph, drawing all things to himself."

Raising the Cross at the summit of human activities should not be understood as a merely external act, somewhat like crowning a building or a monument with this instrument of Redemption. The new meaning Blessed Josemaria Escriva grasped was graphically expressed later on in Opus Dei's seal, where the Cross is placed, not on top or outside the world, but within, at the very heart of it.

Blessed Josemaria Escriva tirelessly preached that Christians have to place Christ at the summit and at the heart of all things. He wrote with the great conviction in "Way of the Cross": "How beautiful are those crosses on the summits of high mountains, and crowning great monuments, and on the pinnacles of cathedrals...! But the Cross must also be inserted in the very heart of the world."

Social sanctification

"Jesus wants to be raised on high, there: in the noise of the factories and workshops, in the silence of libraries, in the loud clamor of the streets, in the stillness of the fields, in the intimacy of the family, in crowded gatherings, in stadiums... Wherever there is a Christian striving to lead an honorable life, he should, with his love, set up the Cross of Christ, who attracts all things to himself." In these few words we have the essence of the lay spirituality God entrusted to the holy founder of Opus Dei. The secular activities of a Christian, carried out within the setting of the family, the workplace and wider human communities, are not profane tasks totally unrelated to human salvation. They are precisely the redemptive instrument God has made available to men and women living in the middle of the world.

These temporal affairs, as the Second Vatican Council called them, are thus imbued with great significance. For ordinary Christians, they are the proper means of personal sanctification and at the same time the key to informing, from within, the entire human society with the spirit of Christ.

In one of his homilies, Blessed Josemaria Escriva paraphrased Christ's message in John 12:32 within the perspective of making Christ's kingdom a reality. "If you put me at the center of all earthly activities, he is saying, by fulfilling the duty of each moment, in what appears important and what appears unimportant, I will draw everything to myself. My kingdom among you will be a reality!"

Depth of meaning

A similar train of thought is expressed in his most well-known book, "The Way": "God wants a handful of men 'of his own' in every human activity. Then... '*pax Christi in regno Christi*'—'the peace of Christ in the kingdom of Christ' " (no. 301).

The depth of meaning that the founder of Opus Die saw during that fateful day in 1931 assumes a more expressive and startling semblance when viewed in the light of the Christian's identification with Christ. Illumined by God's grace, that young priest understood deeply that the Christian, united to Christ in his secular activity, is truly Christ on the Cross, raised on high and drawing all things to himself.

Without this ineffable but necessary transformation, the sanctification of temporal realities will not be possible. Blessed Josemaria Escriva purposely stressed this in one of his homilies. He wrote: "We must, each one of us, be *alter Christus, ipse Christus:* another Christ, Christ himself. Only in this way can we set about this great undertaking, this immense, unending task of sanctifying all temporal structures from within, bringing them the leaven of redemption."

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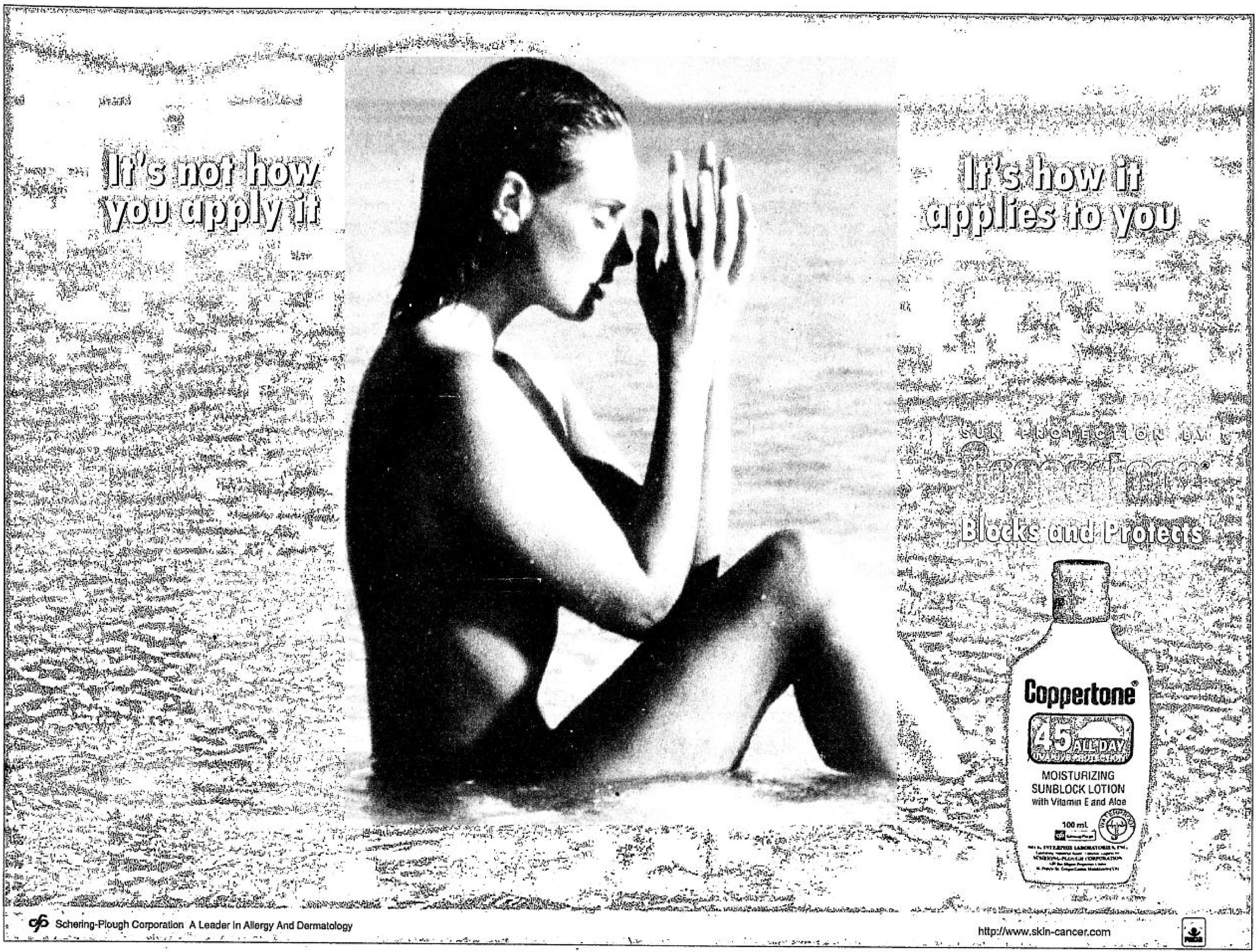

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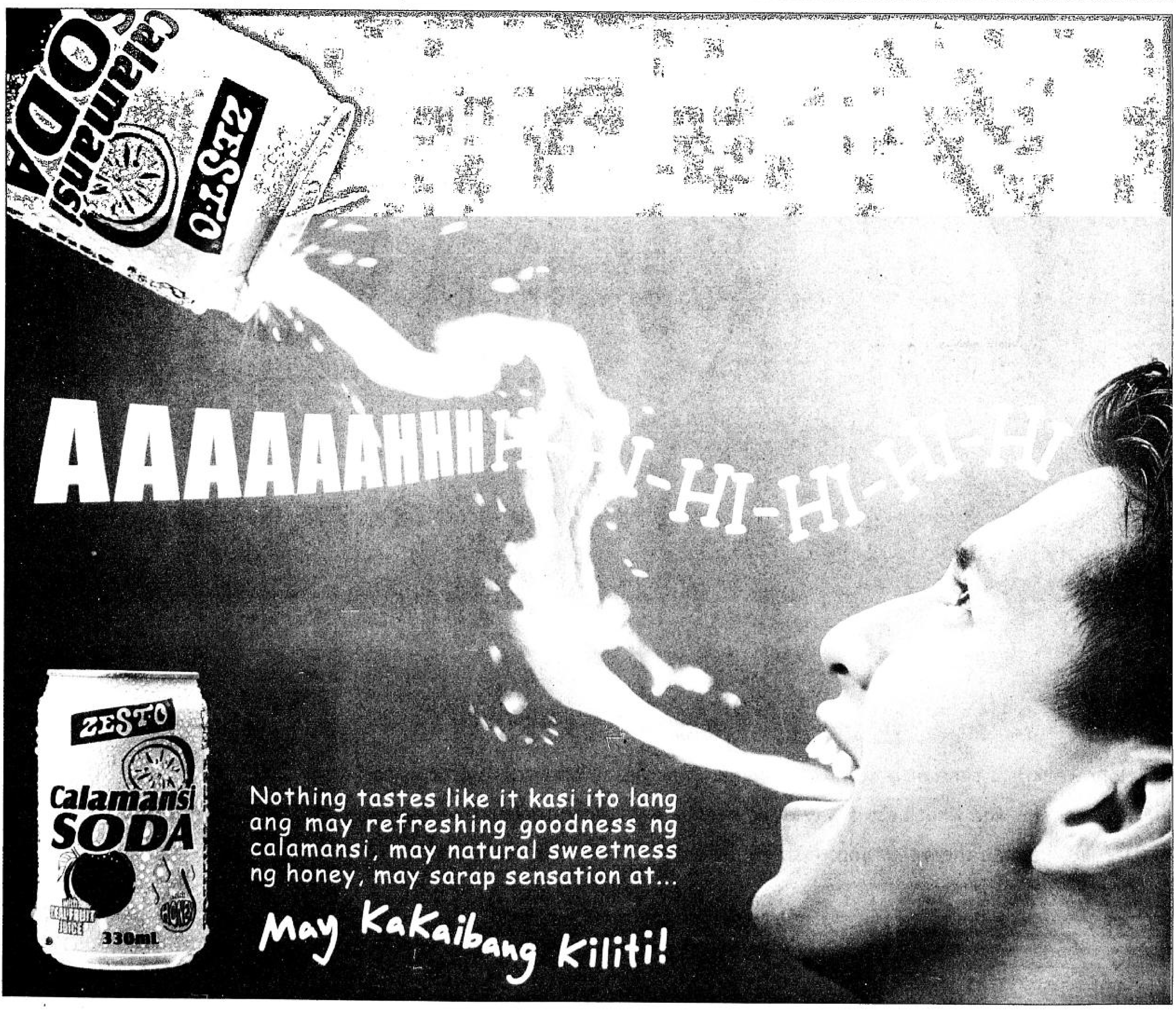

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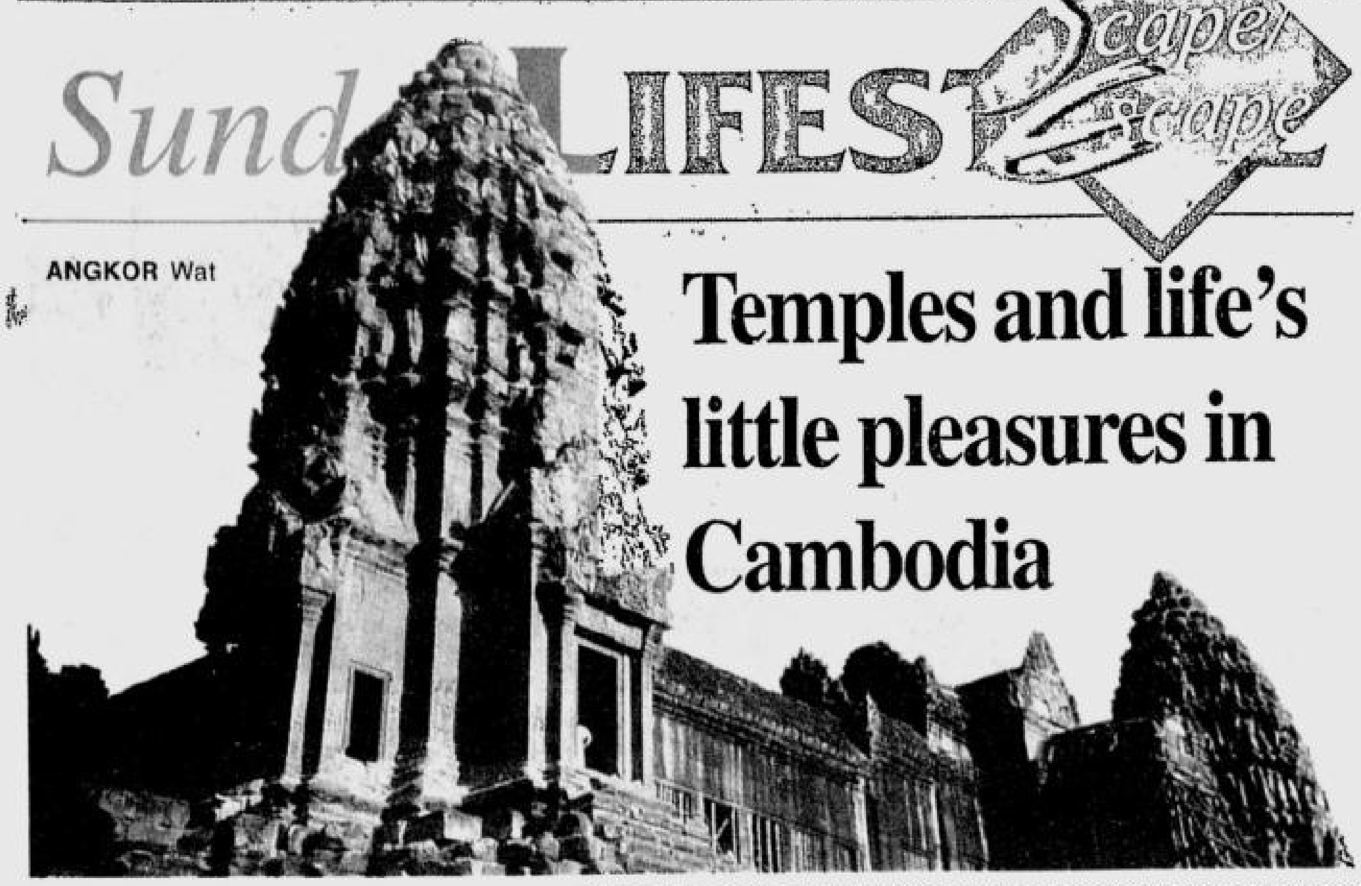
ng honey, may sarap sensation at...

May Kakaibang Kiliti!



ANGKOR Wat

Temples and life's little pleasures in Cambodia

By Clinton Palanca

HAVE a good time in Cambodia," a friend texted me before I left. "Wherever that is." Another friend suggested that I be deliberately clumsy and knock off bits from a temple to take home as a souvenir, perhaps in my toiletry kit. Yet another had my safety in mind, bless her soul, and admonished me not to get my limbs blown off by a landmine.

These messages seem to sum up what most of us know, or don't know, about Cambodia: We have only a very vague idea of where it is (not very near Canada), and it is known primarily for the temple of Angkor Wat and for Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge, the legacy of which is an abundance of landmines which continue to kill and dismember people to this day. On the road to Banteay Srei, one is sternly advised not to wander off the main road in order to, say, take a pee in the bushes as there is a very real danger of getting blown up. The guidebook also writes, not entirely reassuringly, "at the time of writing it is safe to travel, but check with local authorities."

I decided not to visit Phnom Penh on this trip, but to spend my time at the Angkor temples, of which Angkor Wat is only one among many. It was a radical departure from my usual catalog of activities when I travel (shopping, eating, going for spa massages, etc.), but the lost civilization of Angkor was mysterious and mythical enough to fire my imagination. I'd heard that Angelina Jolie, as Lara Croft, was filming the "Tomb Raider" movie there. In an interview, she said: "[It] has changed my life being here in this country. It makes me feel

TEMPLE/ p.E4

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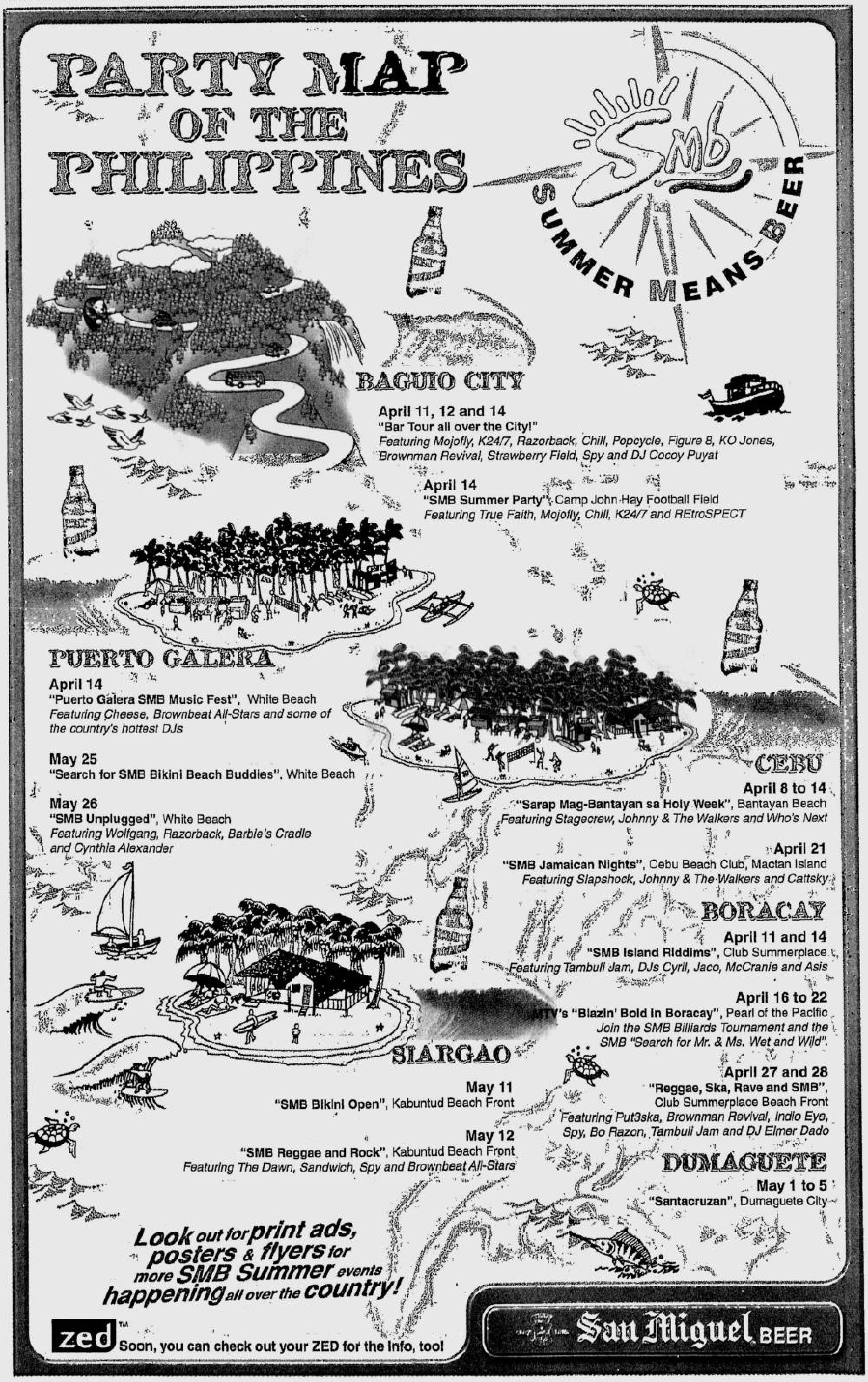
FGU Insurance promotes safe Lenten travel

FGU Insurance Corporation, the non-life insurance arm of the Ayala Group of Companies and the Bank of the Philippine Islands, makes Lenten traveling a much safer experience via its participation in this year's *Gabay Manlalakbay 2001*. Now on its 12th year, the undertaking is being held in partnership with Pilipinas Shell, Regional Emergency Assistance Communication Team (REACT) Philippines, the Philippine National Red Cross and select radio stations.

From April 9 to 15, FGU will set up its booths in Shell retail branches located in the South Luzon Expressway in Susana Heights, Muntinlupa City and North Luzon Tollway in Balagtas, Bulacan to offer new Personal Accident products to give travelers added protection. The heaviest traffic flow from Metro Manila to outlying provinces is always observed during the Holy Week. During this occasion, many gridlocks, accidents and engine breakdowns are likely to occur from the sheer number of vehicles out on the road, that's why having a motor and personal accident insurance becomes all the more significant.

According to FGU President Alfonso "Yogi" Salcedo Jr., assistance to motorists complements the nature of FGU's business, which includes motor car insurance as well as personal accident insurance. "Since we insure motorists, we must be there with them on the days when they come out en masse to observe the Holy Week in their respective provinces or places of retreat," he says.

Aside from making the new FGU Personal Accident products available to motorists, *Gabay Manlalakbay 2001* also involves the coordinated provision of traffic assistance, roadside vehicle assistance, towing service and first aid to motorists and covers locations like Olongapo City, Agoo, La Union and Baguio in the north and Balayan, Batangas City in Batangas, Pagsanjan and San Pablo in Laguna in the south.



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PUERTO GALERA
April 14
"Puerto Galera SMB Music Fest", White Beach
Featuring Cheese, Brownbeat All-Stars and some of the country's hottest DJs
May 25
"Search for SMB Bikini Beach Buddies", White Beach
May 26
"SMB Unplugged", White Beach
Featuring Wolfgang, Razorback, Barbie's Cradle and Cynthia Alexander

CEBU
April 8 to 14
"Sarap Mag-Bantayan sa Holy Week", Bantayan Beach
Featuring Stagecrew, Johnny & The Walkers and Who's Next
April 21
"SMB Jamaican Nights", Cebu Beach Club, Mactan Island
Featuring Slapshock, Johnny & The Walkers and Cattsky

BORACAY
April 11 and 14
"SMB Island Riddims", Club Summerplace
Featuring Tambuli Jam, DJs Cyril, Jaco, McCranie and Asis
April 16 to 22
MTV's "Blazin' Bold in Boracay", Pearl of the Pacific
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San Miguel BEER

The sounds of West End in Cebu

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

WHAT's a guy like **Vernon W. Wenberg Jr.** doing in Cebu? For one thing, directing delightful plays for the Cebu International School. The latest production—"The Boyfriend"—has kept this town humming those **Sandy Wilson** tunes for weeks, from the title song to the dreamy "I Could Be Happy with You" and to the bouncy "Won't You Charleston With Me?"

Back in the 1950s, Wilson wrote the book, music and lyrics of this musical comedy which recalled the Roaring '20s (Wenberg says that in London they were the "tittering" '20s). From a private little playlet, "The Boyfriend" went on to become a roaring (what else?) success at the West End, and in no time it was a hit on Broadway with **Julie Andrews** heading the cast. The movie version in 1971 starred **Twiggy**.

Other CIS theatricals directed by Wenberg were on the spectacular scale, such as "The King and I," "Lili," "Oliver!" and "Bye-Bye Blackbird." This time, "The Boyfriend" was not mounted on a theater like the one at Ayala Center but as a dinner show at the ballroom of the Cebu Country Club.

It was indeed cozy, and the two-night run was sold out, so that there was the SRO sign was posted at the entrance. The costumes were beautiful, the musical arrangements well made, and the direction faultless.

The story is a simple one, with the predictable romantic complications caused by hidden identities, and capped by a happy ending—with everyone finding his match, if not his mate. The setting is the French Riviera, where five schoolgirls are getting ready for the carnival ball. There are five swains in the action, too.

The lead roles were played by **Alice Ishii** and **Stefan Garcia**. Showstoppers were **Sofia Aboitiz** and **Yoshi Maeda** when they did the Charleston number, or whenever they had a scene. The rest of the "perfect young ladies" were **Adrienne Gonzalez, Rachel Stucki, Mayling Sarmiento**, twins **Sarah** and **Shelah Dychangco**. Their swains were **Tim Nam, Mariano Baccay III, Marco Utzurrum, Juan Enrico Quisumbing** and **Keith Palacios. Kyu Leen Lim** as Madame Dubonnet, and **Matthew Castillo** and **Samantha Garcia** as Lord and Lady Brockhurst completed the cast.

Giving their all out-support was the school superintendent, **Mark Bretherton**, as overall coordinator, principal **Luz Isobal** in charge of program, **Val** and **Ofelia Sandiego** taking care of the choreography and costumes, and **Dominique Kerveillant** as property mistress. Her son, **Mike Kerveillant**, teamed with **Pocholo Yrastorza** for the sound management. Among the stage crew were **Marga Aboitiz, Joy Kerveillant, Karina Paradies.**

Parents of the CIS students also took an active part in the various committees to ensure the success of the presentation. We recall **Chary Aboitiz, Alice Fernandez, Jane Rogers** and **Chinggay Utzurrum** (hers are the photos we have) among the marketing and promo team. For tickets and dinner reservations, there was **Gina Aboitiz** assisted by **Tita Andales** and **Nadette Caparoso.**

* * *

Chary Aboitiz also figured in the blessing and inauguration of Magellan's Cross Park right across City Hall and quite near the Basilica del Sto. Niño. As president of the Cebu Parks and Playgrounds Foundation, she led the project that planted flowering shrubs on the site and provided a long stretch of paved space the better for tourists to saunter around the site.

Mayor **Alvin Garcia** and his wife **Ninette** cut the ceremonial ribbon after the welcome address by Dr. **Ado Macaraya,** the foundation's vice president. The blessing was officiated by Augustinian Fr. **Jerome Mesina.**

* * *

Who owns that magnificent yacht moored on the beach? This question was posed by society scribes **Jo Magsaysay, Nelia Neri** and **Flor Ynclino** to Shangri-La's (Mactan) communications whiz **Neil Rumbaoa** during a leisurely lunch at the Shang palace.

The yacht flies the French flag, said GM **Ben Bousnina**, who came to greet us from a nearby table. Maybe he knew but he wasn't telling. That made it all the more exciting to be at the Shangri-La that sunny day.

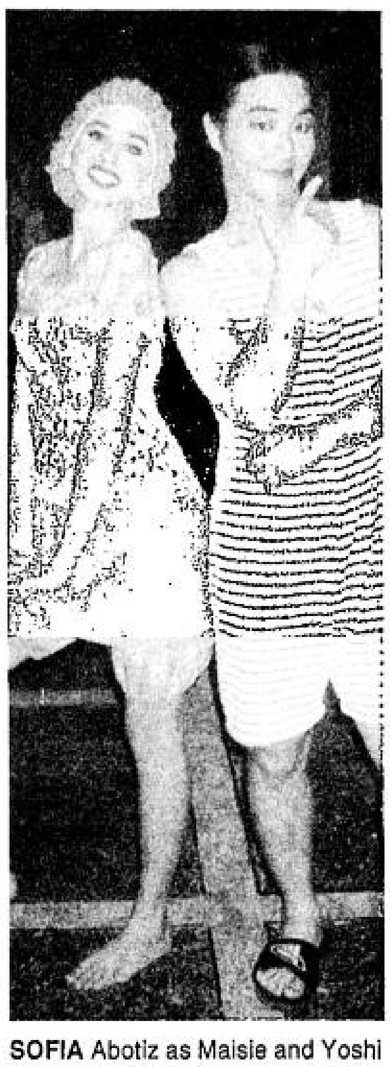
Besides, Neil was being perfectly charming. It being a Friday of Lent the lunch fare was meatless and terrifically good, so everyone congratulated chef **Cheong Kwang Loong**, who is new in town. Then Neil introduced **Tess Tirona** as the new marketing director before she went off to tour the palm garden with **Jenny Franco**. Neil started to beep **Charie Soriaga** at the human resources department because everyone wanted to greet her, and she appeared in no time, a vision in lilac linen.

Loath to leave the Shangri-La after lunch, we just sat in the lobby exchanging banter about the fables and foibles of Cebu's inner sanctum. A sleek diplomatic limo drove up and out came French Ambassador **Gilles Chouraqui** who was staying at the hotel over the weekend.

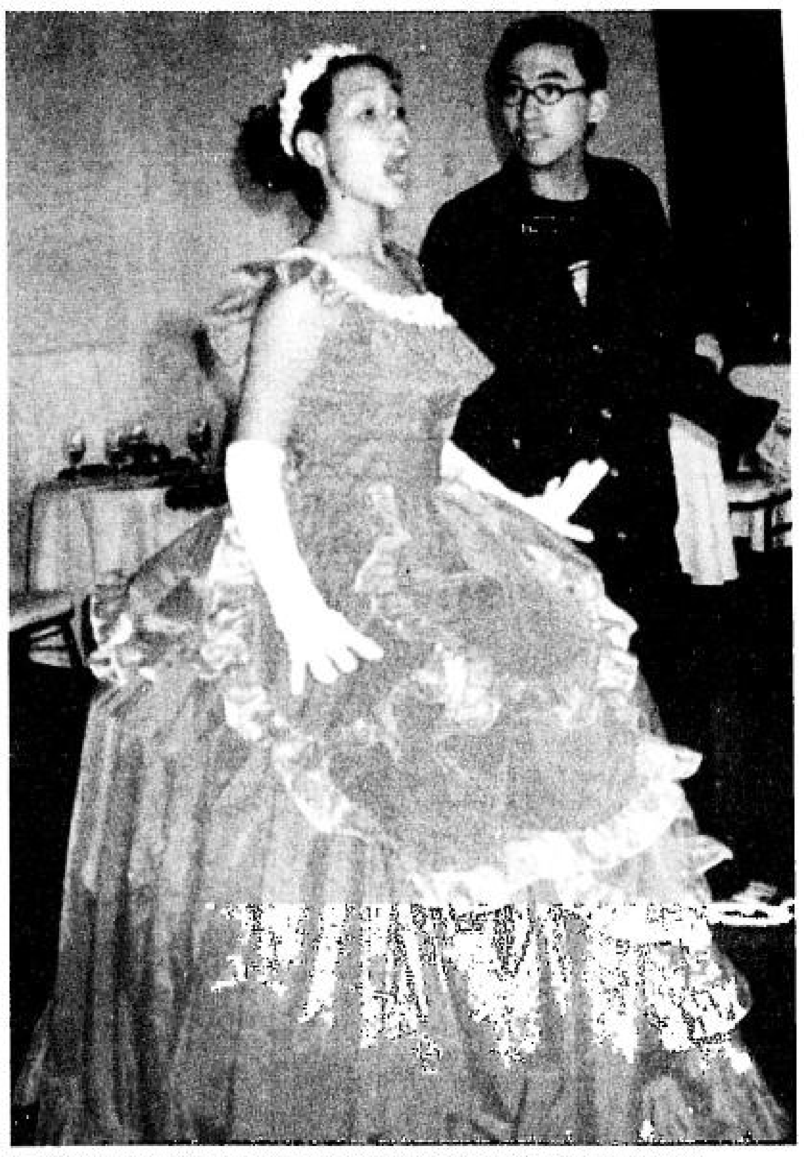
Ambassador Chouraqui had come from lunch at Europa (which offered juicy slabs of grilled salmon) with the dazzling president of the Cebu Arts Council, **Petite Garcia.** They had discussed performances in June by some of the artists who are coming for the French embassy's Spring Festival. We understand the cultural attaché, **Loic Daniel,** was here, too. France's honorary consul in Cebu, **Richard Forteau,** accompanied His Excellency during those official calls and introduced him to the French community during a reception in the evening.

AT THE MAGELLAN'S Cross Park inaugural: (from left) Cebu Parks and Playgrounds Foundation secretary Girlie Lim, president Chary Aboitiz, Cecu City Mayor Alvin Garcia, PRO Olive Dayao, director Terry Manguerra, PRO Carmen Go, Ninette Neri Garcia, director Linda To, director Deena Pages, vice president Dr. Ado Macaraya and director Marilou Cañizares

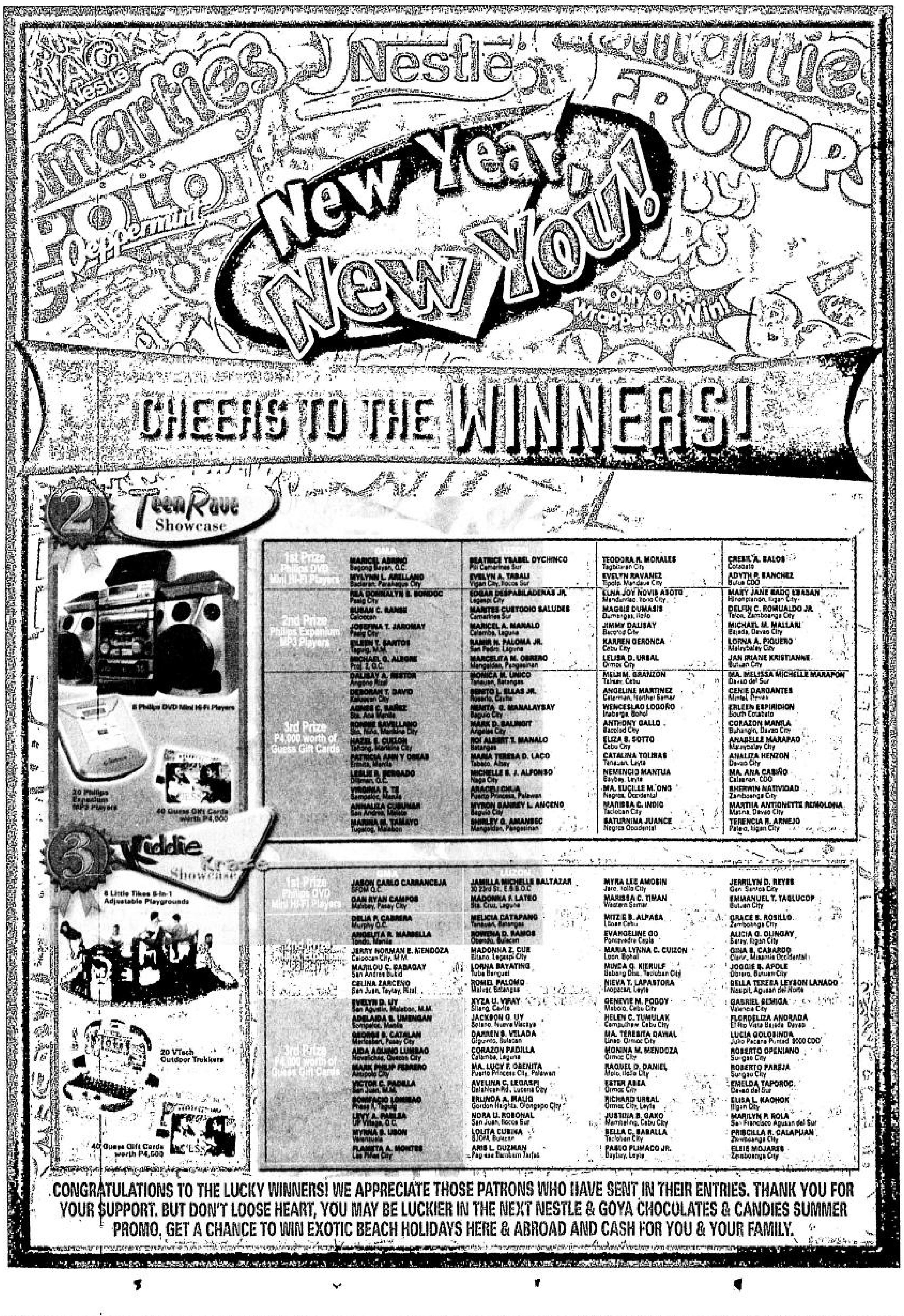
KYU Lee Kim as Madame Dubonnet and Juan Enrico Quisumbing as Percival



SOFIA Abotiz as Maisie and Yoshi Maeda as Bobby



RACHEL Stucki as Dulcie with Matt Castillo as Lord Brockhurst



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Lufthansa's first flight from Manila to Frankfurt took off in April 1981. The 18-hour flight via Bangkok and Karachi operated on a twice-weekly schedule. Today Lufthansa is the only European carrier to operate daily flights between Manila and Europe.

Effective in May, Lufthansa will reintroduce daily service to Bangkok and onto Europe. This service will enable Lufthansa to offer "double" daily services—daily to Bangkok and to Europe.

"Today, the Philippines is considered an important destination in our Asia Pacific network and we continue to provide quality service to our passengers and meet their travel demands," says Wolfgang Schmidt, Lufthansa's general manager for the Philippines.

To mark the two anniversaries as well as its new schedule, a lucky draw will be held for passengers who book online this April at www.lufthansa-philippines.com. The winner stands to win a pair of round-trip business class tickets to Bangkok. Concurrently, Lufthansa will be offering a "Buy one Europe ticket, get one Bangkok ticket free" promotion. This will be effective from April 16 to July 15.

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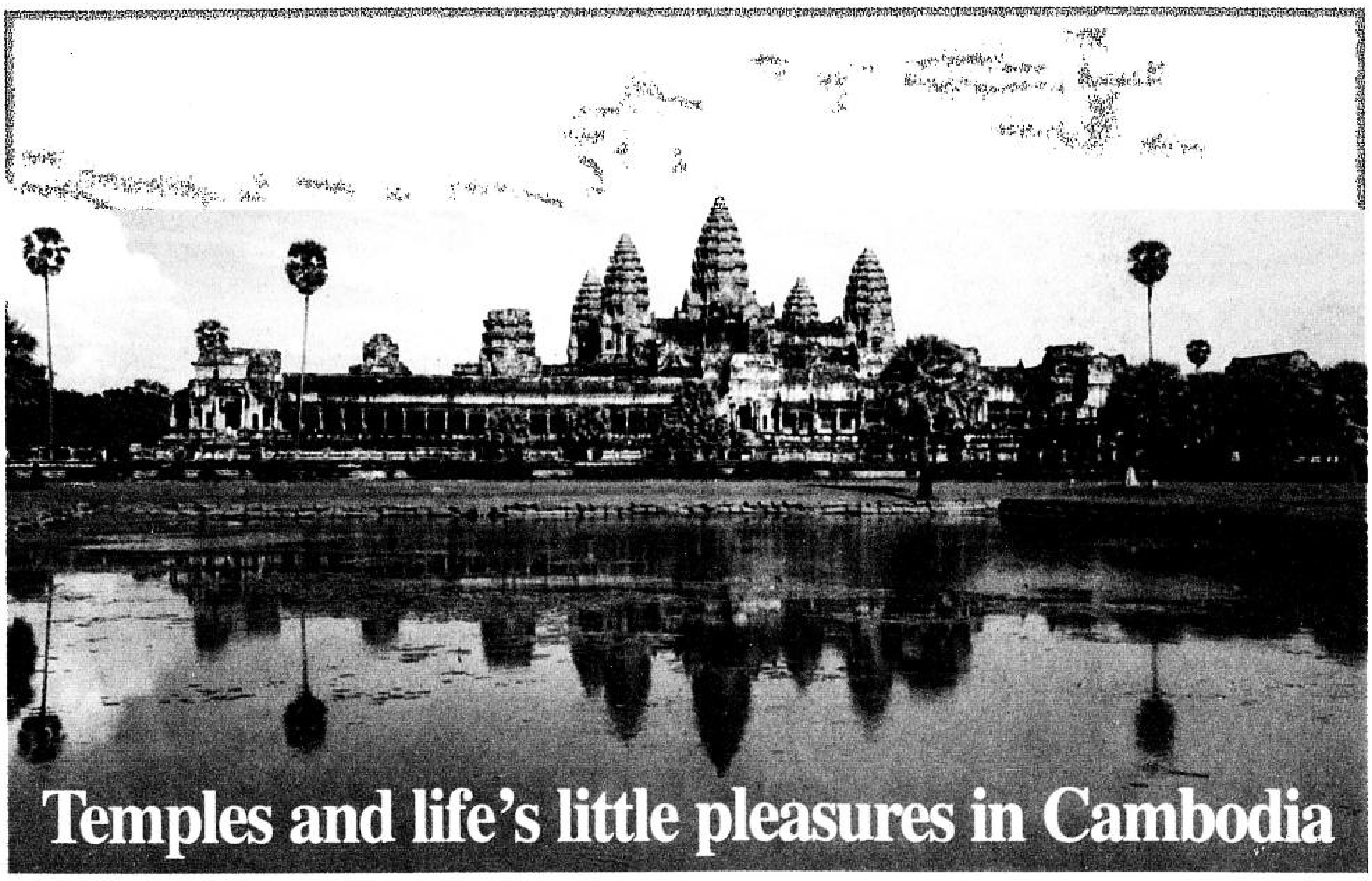


Temples and life's little pleasures in Cambodia

MYSTERIOUS AND MYTHICAL. Angkor Wat

(From page E1)

differently about everything—about my life, about work, about what we can all do. It's the most amazing place I've ever been to in my life." Testimonial enough. And besides, there was a splendid old hotel, the Grand Hotel d'Angkor, recently refurbished by the Raffles Group from Singapore, in the grand colonial style, with a spa on the hotel grounds. History, nubile heroine and massages: for what more can one ask?

Well, decent telecommunications, for one thing. I arrived at Siam Reap International Airport, and smugly breezed past all the white folk queuing for a visa. "From the Philippines," I announced, in a loud, carrying voice. "I don't need a visa." Life's little pleasures. I then activated my international roaming and found a single service provider, and then began calling people back home just for the fun of being able to say: "Hi! I'm calling from Cambodia!" We then fell into chatter about mundane things, gossip about friends, a brief *discursus* on metaphysics and Being, etc. I later found out that the telecommunications infrastructure is so poorly developed that international calls cost $9 a minute.

Running on batteries

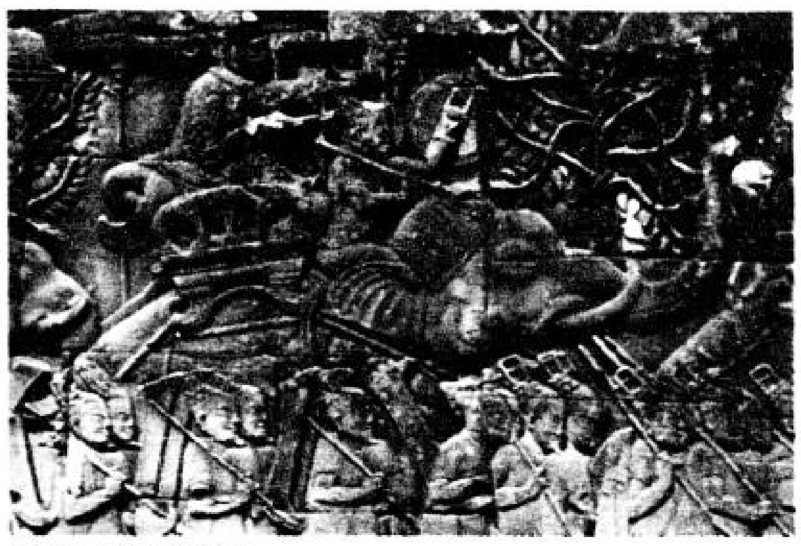
Meanwhile, I managed to find an official guide and a car (a battered van, actually, which kept breaking down and smelled of mentholated vaporub), and set off down the dusty road to the hotel. On the way, we passed a small white building, about as large as one of the more ostentatious houses in Corinthian Village. "Electricity-making factory," the guide explained. A small wisp of brown smoke floated lazily from one of the chimneys. How much electricity could this plant possibly produce? I soon found out: only the center of the town is electrified; the rest of the countryside runs, literally, on batteries.

The Grand Hotel d'Angkor is smack in the middle of the town, and is more splendid than the Royal Residence, which it faces, across an immaculately manicured garden. "The park belongs to the hotel," the guide told me. "If it belonged to the government, it wouldn't look like this." Inside, the hotel was everything you'd expect of an old colonial hotel: servants in white bowing and scraping all over the place, and a beautiful old wooden elevator, restored to working condition. Prices were astronomical. I mentally justified it by comparing it to Amanpulo. Essentially, these places are maintaining oases of civilization and perfect taste and service in the middle of nowhere: for the latter, in an isolated island; for the former, in a very undeveloped country pitted with landmines.

It's one of the few places one goes to and then decides that Manila isn't so bad after all. The currency is so unstable that the country uses two forms of exchange: US dollars and stones. No, just kidding: there is a local currency called the riel (about 3,800 to the dollar), but you can get through your entire stay without seeing it. All prices are quoted in dollars and, at most places, you can even use Thai baht. The roads, when they do exist, are filled with bicycles, scooters, vans and pick-up trucks, all weaving in and out so chaotically that it took me a while to figure out which side of the road they drive on. I finally found out that they drive on the right, but that they import most of their vehicles from Thailand, which means that the steering wheel is on the left, and so the drivers are usually on traverse sides of the road when they pass each other. Half the time you're riding around with your eyes closed, convinced that you're going to slam into a bicycle or run over a little boy or further maim one of the many amputees that pedal down the road using their arms in custom-made bicycles.

And so to the Lara Croft bit. I dressed in appropriate explorer's garb, a well-pressed cotton shirt and linen trousers (I couldn't find a pith helmet, though), and set off for the temples. The guide spoke excellent English, although he had a typical Cambodian habit of dropping the final consonant sound of each word. The Khmer Rouge, for instance, is pronounced as "Khmer Roux," which makes it sound like a sauce base of butter and flour rather than a genocide squad. (I remember being in the Literature Department of the Ateneo when one of the Cambodian exchange students came in and announced he wanted to fax his mother, which we thought it a very healthily Freudian thing to admit, but we didn't need to know.) The guide was also a master of understatement. "If you go off the road, you get your legs blown up. Not very good." Khmer houses were traditionally built high off the ground because "from the jungle, tiger come and eat the baby. Not very good." I agreed that that would be, indeed, mildly unpleasant.

Angkor Wat needs no explanation; it is simply beautiful, glowing amber in the sunset, reflected in the moat that rings it. There are three levels, the second of which is entirely carved with bas-reliefs. The third level rises steeply upward and is meant to symbolize Mount Meru, the center of Hindu cosmology



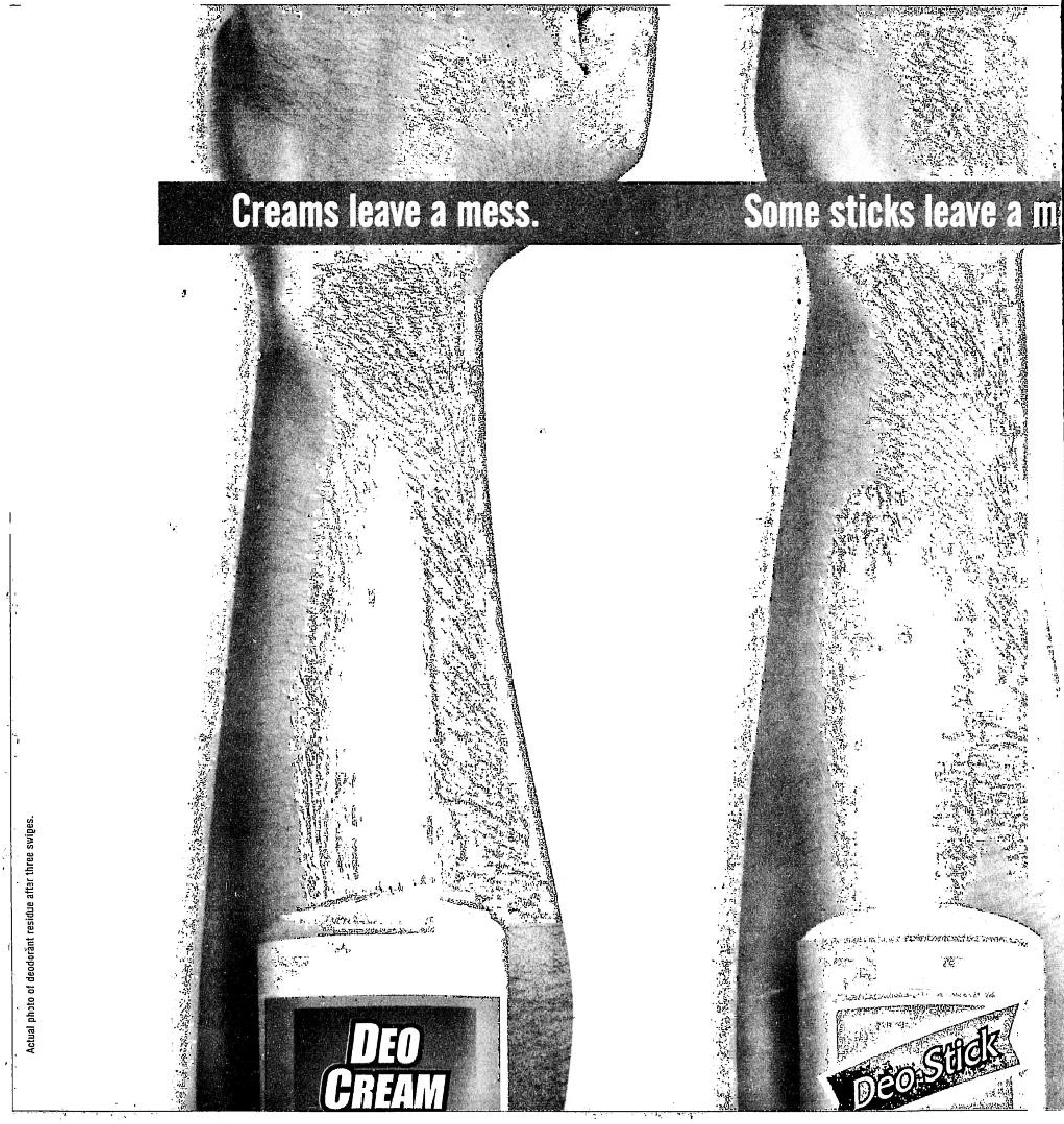
BAS-RELIEF carvings

Must-sees

There are two must-sees in the area: Angkor Wat, which is a Hindu temple (later turned Buddhist) and the more beautiful of the two, and Angkor Thom, which is an actual city, and for me the more interesting of the two. At the apogee of Khmer civilization, they controlled much of Southeast Asia, and the capital was Angkor Thom, built in the late 12th century by Jayavaraman VII (his is the head with the annoyingly complacent and shut-eyed smile that you see on Cambodian statues). Here, the guide spoke fluently of Khmer civilization, and the mythology and everyday life that were depicted on the walls. The city is flanked by two huge reservoirs. "An old proverb," he said. "With water, you make rice. With rice, you make war." It was these reservoirs that enabled the Khmers to plant three cycles of rice in a year, and build a complex, powerful empire.

But while we were wandering around the ruins of the king's swimming pool (where he frolicked with his 300 wives, the old cad), the talk turned to the Khmer Rouge and the more recent political events. "We were separated from our parents," he said, "and brought to camps. They didn't allow us to live as families, just labor camps where they strike a bell for mealtimes. They killed all educated people, so I pretended not to speak French or English. After the war ended, I started to look for my parents and my sister. I found one uncle, but that was all." He paused, but was completely expressionless. "Now if you look to your right you will see the bas-reliefs depicting..."

He said that Cambodia had finally achieved "peace" four years ago, although this is a relative term; up to last year, the more remote temples were still not safe to visit. The Khmer Rouge is still alive, mainly by illegal logging and poaching, from which they get the money to buy arms. There are few colonial buildings, no antiquities and few books left undestroyed. Outside the town were the "killing fields" where tortures and executions took place, and one of the most prominent buildings in town today is the headquarters of the international organization that is using metal detectors to de-mine the area bit by bit. Yet all the Cambodians I met seemed genuinely friendly, helpful people, with not the

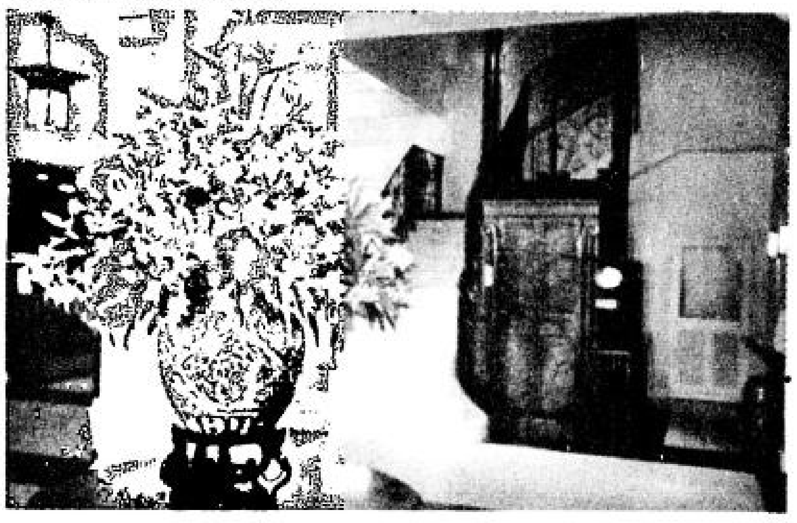


COUNTRYSIDE scenes

FISH out in the sun to dry

There was something very desolate about Cambodia that made me want to tell someone about life in a country that runs on batteries at night

STREET SCENE. Few colonial buildings and antiquities remain because of the war.



GRAND hotel d'Angkor

slightest hint of latent genocide in their demeanor.

On the last day, at sunset, we finally arrived at Angkor Wat. By this time I had had stone temples coming out of my ears and stone ears coming out of my temples, as I listened, eyes glazing over, to more descriptions of friezes, reliefs, stupas and explanations of the difference between Siva-dominant and Vishnu-dominant Hinduism, its later syncretism with (Mahayana) Buddhism, and so on and so forth. Angkor Thom is like visiting the Agora in Athens, or the palaces at Luxor: You need a healthy imagination to imagine the walls with their original stucco or gold-leafing, the wooden ceiling in place, the torches burning, the proud Khmer army entering in triumph from the east from yet another successful battle.

Simply beautiful

But Angkor Wat needs no explanation; it is simply beautiful, glowing amber in the sunset, reflected in the moat that rings it. There are three levels, the second of which is entirely carved with bas-reliefs. The third level rises steeply upward and is meant to symbolize Mount Meru, the center of Hindu cosmology. Most of the other tourists were milling about at the base; a few young backpackers were making their way to the top. "I want to climb it," I said.

We circled the structure to find a suitable ascent. It is theoretically scalable from all sides; it's just that the ascent consists of a 1-inch step, followed by a 14-inch riser, then a 1-inch step, and so on. It's like wall-climbing without a harness, with the added threat that the stone is crumbling in many portions, so one has to look for an ascent path with contiguous footholds. I asked how often people fell off. "Not very often," he said, smiling.

I began my ascent. Halfway up, as I was gasping for breath and experiencing the first pangs of vertigo, I was startled to find myself overtaken by what looked like an 80-year-old wizened little grandmother scaling upward at a rapid pace. Outraged, I quickened my climb, and fell, hyperventilating, into a little corridor that ran around a small courtyard. The little old lady gave me a bemused look and began wandering around, reading her guidebook. There was a tiny, insignificant buddha with a garland of flowers sitting in the center of the courtyard. Like the Tower of Pisa, or the Eiffel Tower, the only place where you can't appreciate its beauty is when you've achieved its summit.

I'm sure there was something philosophically important in that thought, but I didn't care; all I wanted was to get back. At the hotel I had the best massage of my life, collapsed into bed and watched MTV while resisting the urge to call or text anyone. I often travel for months without "looking back," but there was something very desolate about Cambodia that made me want to talk about it, tell someone about life in a country that runs on batteries at night.

Riding back home in the van, unusually well behaved that evening (it tended to break down by emitting an alarming, high-pitched noise and then refusing to move—rather like this girl I used to know), I saw a group of Khmers who had erected makeshift houses amid some of the less important ruins in the countryside. I thought it was an apt metaphor for the Cambodians of today: They are so poor that their only concern is to get rice on the table from day to day; yet they live, literally, in the shadow of their past greatness. The guide referred to the 13th-century Khmer army defeating the Thai tribes (there was no Thailand then, yet) as "our people"; yet it was the same first-person plural that he admitted was one of the poorest nations on earth today, who "have no industry, no factories. We only make beer."

Although I love the idea of staying at hotels like the Oriental, the Raffles, the Strand, or, indeed, the Grand Hotel d'Angkor, we cannot travel with the same innocence of the Europeans who lounged about in white rattan chairs and drank their gin and tonics with their legs enclosed in burlap bags. The difference is simply that the British of the East India Company or the French who colonized Indochina considered themselves a superior race and behaved accordingly. But today, it is impossible to be unaffected by the disparity between the Floris toiletries and $55 massage at the hotel and the poverty of the locals outside (they would have been referred to as "the natives") who were eating appalling food by the light of kerosene lamps. Meanwhile, Coco Lee gyrated on MTV, an American company, beamed by satellite from Singapore, back-announced by Donita, who appeared like an old, familiar friend from home.

It's a fascinating place, the Asia of today. And, just in case you were wondering, Cambodia is to the right of Thailand.

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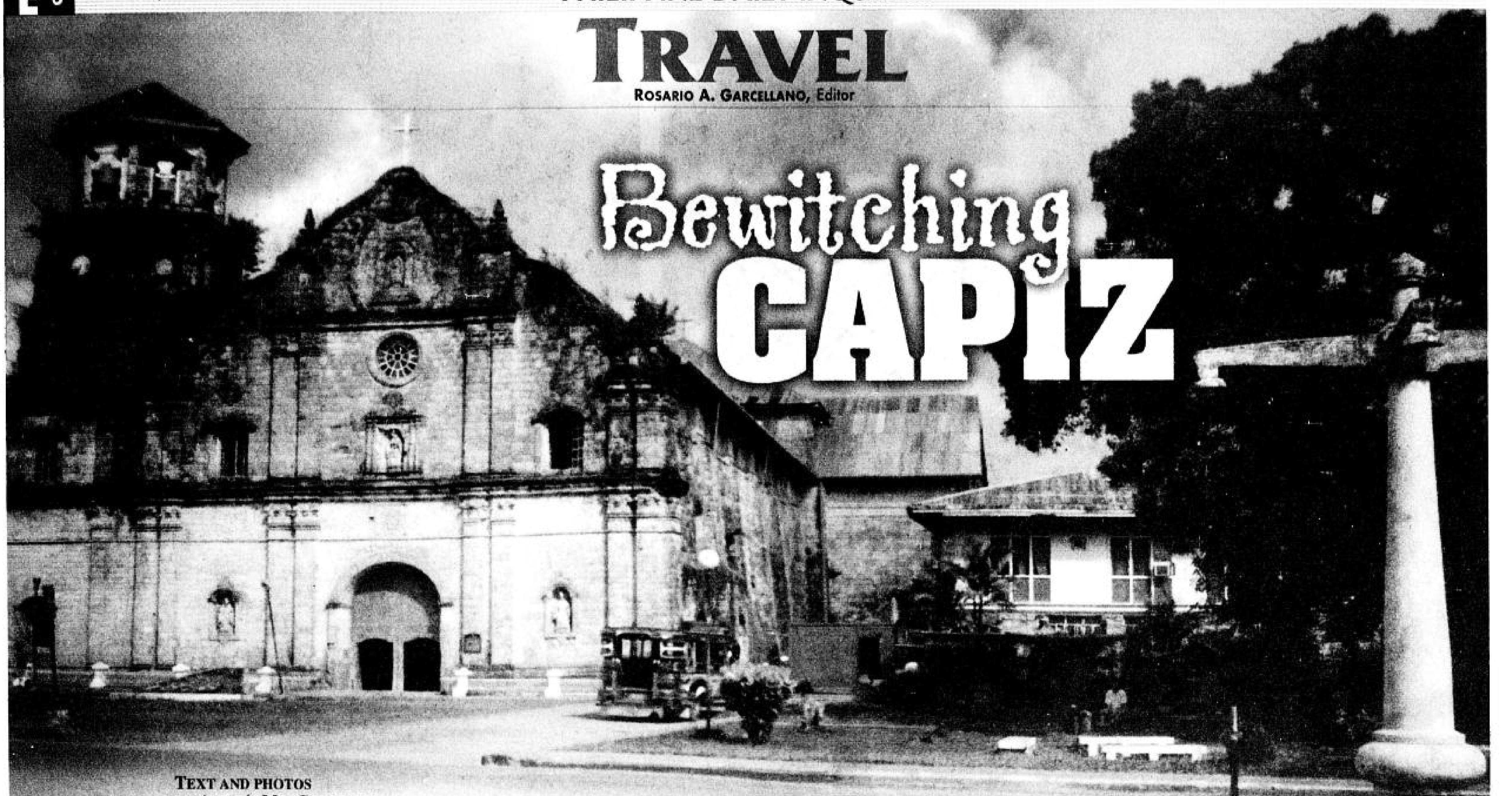
TRAVEL

ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO, Editor

Bewitching CAPIZ



THE CHURCH of Santa Monica in Pan-ay

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY AMADÍS MA. GUERRERO

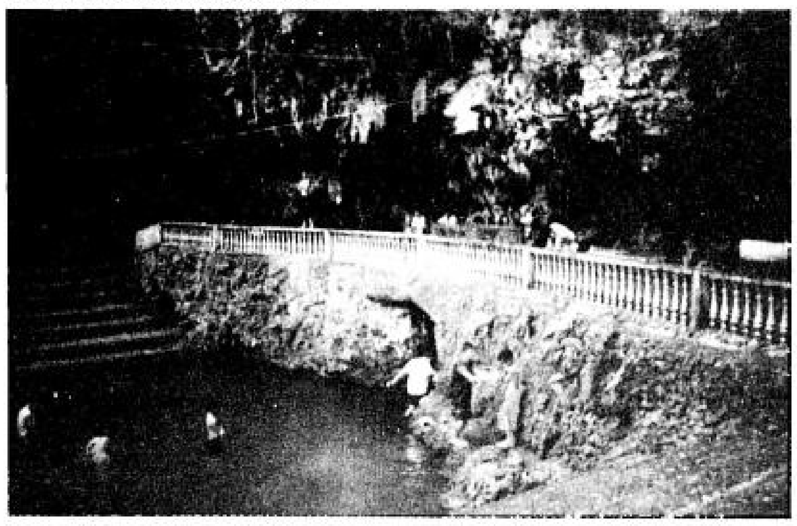
WESTERN Visayas (Region VI) is one of our most interesting areas, embracing Iloilo, Aklan, Capiz, Antique, and Guimaras.

It is a region of great churches, beaches, caves, islands and islets, succulent seafood, weeklong festivals, ancestral homes, and historical landmarks.

It is, in short, like many of the other regions nationwide, but with a distinct character all its own. This has to do with the charming, easy-going nature of the Western Visayans, their intonation and musical languages (Hiligaynon, Aklanon and Kiniray-a), and their solidarity with their heritage.

On the east coast of the big island of Panay lies Capiz, where emanate all those apocryphal tales about supernatural creatures, the *aswang* and the *kapre*.

LONELY isle off Baybay Beach



ENJOYING spring waters from Suhot Cave

The Capizeños used to be sensitive about this unwelcome image, but now they just tend to laugh it off. "I'm growing an *engkanto*," jokes Nilda Contreras, a project manager of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, as she flaps invisible wings.

In fact, "Bewitching Capiz" is the tongue-in-cheek slogan of the Roxas City Museum. And there has even been a proposal to stage an "Aswang Festival," although Capizeños greeted it with mixed feelings.

The capital city of Roxas is bustling and progressive. A river runs through it, separating the Metropolitan Cathedral (built in 1876 and, as a large chiseled sign in Spanish announces, reconstructed in 1954), the busy plaza thoroughfare and the quaint fountain from the rest of the city.

WG&A's MV Our Lady of Medjugorje docks at Roxas' Culasi Port twice a week, following a brief stopover in Dumaguit, Aklan. The trip from Manila takes about 20 hours.

The night life in Roxas may seem sedate if you compare it to that in the bigger cities in the Visayas. But there is a sprinkling of disco houses, beer gardens and videoke bars.

In one of the latter, you just might bump into my host, DENR provincial officer Dionisio S. Molina Jr. (who is from Bangued, Abra). He likes to bring visitors to these popular karaoke establishments for he has a fine singing voice.

Capiz bills itself as "the seafood capital of the Philippines." And with reason—the waters teem with all sorts of fish and other bounty from the sea.

In recent years, however, the market for cultured prawns and *bangus* (milkfish) has declined, prompting entrepreneurs to shift to ecotourism. "And so from fishpond businesses they have diversified into hotels, restaurants and beach resorts," notes Molina.

"The entrepreneurs came to realize that ecotourism generates jobs and money," adds Bernabe H. Garnace, community environment officer for 10 towns. "They plan to build more resorts."

The existing resorts include a clutch of resorts along the 7-kilometer Baybay Beach, near the city proper, and on Virgin Beach in Basiao, Ivisan.

One result of the new thrust is the spanking-new La Hacienda Hotel, which has a videoke bar called Onyo with the ambience of a mountain log cabin. They serve a delicious seafood *kare-kare* with a fine-tasting, local *bagoong* (fish paste).

Other places to stay in the city include the Halaran Plaza, the oldest lodging establishment, and the RVW Tourist Inn, which has a ballroom where proms are held often at this time of the year.

A local government official who is gung-ho on ecotourism is Dumalag Mayor Ricardo H. Castro, whose town lies along the old Aklan-Capiz-Iloilo route. "We are planning to build access roads for tourism purposes," he informs our group, and recommends Suhot Cave to spelunkers.

DETAIL of floral design on church portal

What Capiz has to offer the adventure tourist is its impressive conglomeration of caves, some of them winding through two towns amid a maze of chambers "with flowing draperies," flowstones, spring waters and natural pools, bats and swiftlets, striking formations (including the sacred—cherub wings—and the scandalous—phallic shapes), and converging stalactites and stalagmites.

"We call this convergence 'curtains'," explains project manager Contreras. The caves are under the jurisdiction of the DENR's Protected Areas and Wildlife Development Unit.

Suhot Cave begins in Dumalag and ends in Dumarao. It will take an estimated seven days to traverse the cave, but this is hardly possible as "curtains" of stalagmites and stalagmites block some portions.

"But one can explore up to two kilometers of the cave," says protected areas chief Gliceria J. Ignacio as she guides this non-spelunker through nearby formations.

In Jamindan, the sprawling 13-hectare Suhoton Caves Complex comprises all of 33 caves, each named for a reason. One cave, for instance, is called Mahayag ("Light") because the sunlight streams through it. A cathedral-like chamber, as big as a ballroom, is named Baylehan. It has an "altar" and "cherub wings," all natural formations.

The caves are home to bats, lizards and swiftlets, which build nests with their saliva. Gathering nests is prohibited, but the ban is difficult to enforce as the local folk gather the nests at night, using makeshift bamboo poles to scale the walls.

A kilo of nests (used for making nido soup) costs a stratospheric P7,000, and middlemen make a killing by selling for P12,000 per kilo.

Profits are thus realized at the expense of the environment and its fauna.

Outside Suhoton Cave roam monkeys, snakes, *bayawak* (monitor lizards), pigeons, grass owls, quails, sparrows and other fauna.

There are many other caves in Capiz, some unexplored and undiscovered. One conglomerate of 27 caves in Mambuso, difficult to reach, is called Simbahan because the formations resemble one church portal after another.

Pan-ay, the first Spanish settlement in the island, is one of the most charming of Capiz towns, and its baroque church of stone, dedicated to Santa Monica, is the most beautiful in the province. Fittingly, it was declared a National Historical Landmark in 1997. Moss and vegetation grow on the coral blocks of the curvilinear, undulating façade.

Beside the church is the Museo de Santa Monica, which, alas, now functions as a mere convent house because, according to staffers, its valuable relics and antiques were stolen two years ago.

Inside, the church is almost bare except for the ceiling-high *retablo* (altar backdrop) and the Stations of the Cross. The 117-year-old walls show their age. There are bamboo scaffoldings all over, indicating reconstruction activities. One hopes that what is at work here is restoration, and not renovation.

In the tower, ringed by seven smaller bells, is the biggest bell in Asia, and said to be the third biggest in the world. Under the watchful eye of a church aide, forester Nonilon S. Molina and I ascended the six-story, 63-step stairway of the belfry.

The bell was made from 70 sacks of coins donated by the townspeople in 1884. It measures 70 feet in diameter, five feet in height (taller than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo or Sen. Juan Flavier), and weighs 10,400 kilograms or 10.4 tons. Its echo can be heard 7 kilometers away.

A long inscription on the bell declares: "*Soy la voz de Dios...recibir las gracias celestiales* (I am the voice of God...receive the heavenly graces)."

We saw below us the fields, streams, trees and low-lying mountains of Pan-ay and, in the distance, Olotayan Island. What a grand way to cap one's visit to "bewitching," captivating Capiz.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Easter doings

PLANNING a Lenten break with the family? Check out these options:

At the Holiday Inn Manila until April 17, you can stay in a standard room for P1,800 net (single/double occupancy) and P2,200 (triple accommodation). And the best part: you may upgrade to a superior room by adding only P400 net.

You can share a moment of meditation with your loved ones at the Capilla Lorenzo de Manila Chapel on the 5th floor of the hotel.

For reservations, call (632) 526-1212 loc. 2343, fax (632) 526-5566 or e-mail at reservations@holiday-inn.com.ph.

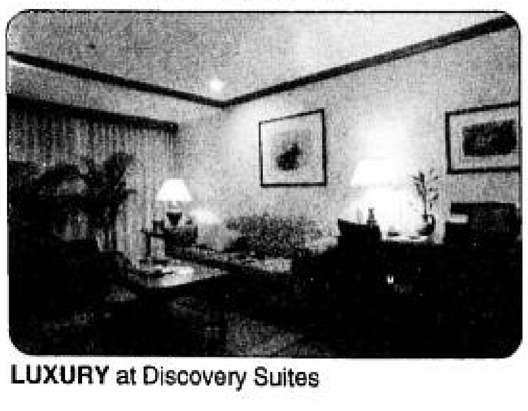
* * *

ISLAND Cove Resort and Leisure Park in Kawit, Cavite, celebrates Easter Sunday with "Pokemon Easter Funday" at the Kiddie Cove 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tickets are available at the resort for P50 per person, plus the Oceania entrance free of P150/adult and P100/child.

Families who wish to spend their Easter holiday there may take the Any Day Getaway promo of P2,600 inclusive of overnight hotel accommodation, with set breakfast for two (a maximum of two kids aged 12 years and below can room with their parents for free).

Special tour packages are also available for company, family and *barkada* outings of a minimum of 15, starting at P420 per person.

For reservations, call (046) 434-0210 in Cavite, or the Makati Sales Office at 810-3740 or 3728. The toll-free numbers are 810-3718, 810-3732, 810-3764 and 810-5683. E-mail at islacove@info.com.ph or visit www.islandcovephil.com.



LUXURY at Discovery Suites

* * *

YOU can book an overnight stay for Easter at Discovery Suites (25 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig) and spend another night free. The package includes complimentary breakfast at Serendipity Lounge, complimentary use of the Health Club, pool, sauna and jacuzzi, a 10-percent discount on the Easter lunch buffet (P395++ for adults and P245++ for kids), and special treats for kids.

The premier serviced apartments are offering a junior suite for P4,200++ (single and twin occupancy); one-bedroom suite, P5,000++; two-bedroom suite, P8,000++; and three-bedroom suite, P12,000++.

The 1+1 promo is open to local residents until April 15. For details, call 635-2222 or log on to www.discoverysuites.com.

* * *

FOR ANOTHER "1+1 Easter Deal," there's the Olympia Courtyard Suites in Makati City. The special rates are: junior suite, P2,800++; one-bedroom suite P4,000++; two-bedroom suite, P6,000++; and two-bedroom deluxe suite, P8,500++.

Rates are subject to service charge and applicable government taxes.

Also available to all local residents, and valid until April 15. For reservations, call 812-1010.

* * *

REDISCOVER Subic and its countless legends at three top vacation havens—the Legenda Hotel, Grand Seasons Hotel and Legenda Suites.

The rates are US$75+ for an overnight stay in a superior room at Legenda Hotel or Grand Seasons or in a one-bedroom suite at Legenda Suites; $85+ in a deluxe room at Legenda Hotel or Grand Seasons; and $95+ for a two-bedroom suite at Legenda Suites.

The promo includes daily breakfast for two persons per room per night, valid until May 31.

For reservations, call 732-9888 or (047) 252-1888.

* * *

FROM APRIL 8 to 22 at the Pan Pacific (Malate, Manila), the exclusive Easter room rates are executive room at P3,500; executive superior, P4,000; executive deluxe, P4,500; superior deluxe, P5,000; Pacific suite, P6,000; and executive suite, P7,000.

All these net prices are inclusive of complimentary buffet breakfast and Easter egg souvenir. Two complimentary tickets to Enchanted Kingdom will be given along with the first 25 rooms booked.

On Easter Sunday, give a hug to the adorable Pikachu at the Adriatico Square and indulge in a sunset barbecue at poolside.

THE GOOD life at Legenda

Call (632) 536-0788 or fax (632) 536-6220.

* * *

AT THE Seven Suites hotel observatory in Antipolo, Easter Sunday treats include a pocket-friendly buffet and an Easter egg decorating competition and egg hunt.

A week later, the hotel launches "Celebrate Antipolo" and treats city residents to free drink and dessert starting April 23.

Other treats are All-Day Play for P350/person, and Sax Therapy, jazz music and tunes, starting April 28.

For inquiries, call 426-4828 to 29 or visit www.cravingsgroup.com.

'Lakbay Alalay'

AND for those traveling with infants, Prokids Premium Disposable Baby Diapers, in cooperation with Petron and the PNCC, will provide free diaper change booths at 12 Petron service stations along north and south Luzon expressways on April 11, 12, 14 and 15.

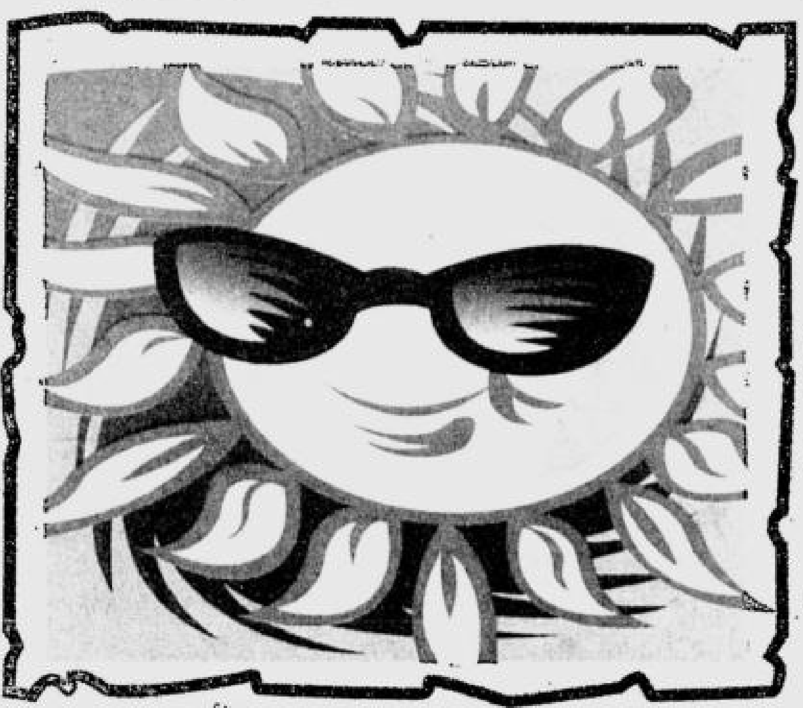
The designated Petron north-bound service stations include those on 30 Harrison Road, Baguio City; Marcos Highway corner Kisad Road, Baguio City; MacArthur Highway, Binalonan, Pangasinan; MacArthur Highway, Barangay San Miguel, Tarlac, Tarlac; Gapan Olongapo Road, San Fernando, Pampanga; PEC1 North Expressway, Barangay Lias, Marilao, Bulacan; and PEC2 North Luzon Expressway, Bocaue, Bulacan.

For vacationers heading south, look out for Petron stations at Real, Calamba, Laguna; PEC3 South Expressway, San Pedro; National Highway, Sto. Tomas, Batangas; Maharlika Highway, Tagaytay City, Cavite; and Aguinaldo Highway, Mahabang Kahoy, Tagaytay City.

Also under "Lakbay Alalay," diaper change stations will be installed at the Philippine Airlines departure area for domestic flights with the support of the Manila International Airport Authority.

Nestlé

Celebrates SUMMER FUN



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April 1-15
SUMMER FUN AT CJH
CJH Dev Corp

April 2-May 30
NEEDLE WORKS & HANDICRAFTS EXHIBIT
DTI Building

April 7-15
NIDO BOUNCY CASTLE
9am - 6pm
Melvin Jones

April 7-15
MILO SPORTS VILLAGE
9am - 6pm
Melvin Jones

April 7-15
NESTLÉ CORPORATE SELLING
9am - 6pm
Igorot Garden,
Children's Park

April 7-15
NESTLÉ PURE LIFE SELLING BOOTH
9am - 6pm
Igorot Garden,
Children's Park

April 7-15
MAGGI SNACK CENTER
9am - 6pm
Igorot Garden,
Children's Park

April 7-15
NESCAFÉ FROTHÉ FACE PAINTING
9am - 6pm
Melvin Jones

April 7-15
CARNATION EVAP COOL STATION
Igorot Garden

NESCAFÉ BEV PACKS
Baguio City

April 8
ADIDAS/PHARMATON 10 K RUN
Lake Drive

April 8-15
SUMMER ON ROCKS
Athletic Bowls

April 8-15
PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY MASS
Malcolm Square c/o Nestlé

April 9
SMARTIES MOTORCADE
Baguio City

April 9-11
SMARTIES OBJECT PAINTING
Melvin Jones

April 9-11
SPIRITUAL RETREATS
Multi-Purpose Hall,
City Hall

April 9-12
MILO 3-POINT SHOOT OUT
9am - 6pm
Athletic Bowl

April 9-14
SMARTIES SINGING WORKSHOP
Melvin Jones

April 10
SMARTIES CLAY SCULPTING
Melvin Jones

April 10-11
NIDO ON-THE-SPOT DRAWING CONTEST
Rose Garden

April 10-11
SUMMER CAMP WORKSHOP
DTI Building

April 11
SEARCH FOR LUCKY SUMMER VISITORS

April 10-12
CARNATION CALCIUM PLUS OPERATION BONE CHECK
Melvin Jones

April 11-14
NESTLÉ ICE CREAM AIRPLANE TURBO EXHIBITION
Melvin Jones

April 12
JUDGEMENT MORNING DRAMA
Baguio Convention Center
Goodnews Community Church

April 12
SMARTIES BALLOON SCULPTING
Melvin Jones

April 13
EVANGELISTIC CRUSADE GOSPEL CONCERT
Malcolm Square
c/o Church of Christ

April 13
SMARTIES EXHIBIT OPENING
Melvin Jones

April 13
GOSPEL SONG CONCERT
6 - 8:30pm
Malcolm Square
c/o THIRD Exodus Mission

April 14
NESTLÉ ICE CREAM FILIPINO SIMPLE JOYS
3 - 5:00pm
Igorot Garden

April 15
NESTLÉ CHOCOLAIT EASTER EGGHUNT
6:00am
Rose Garden

April 15
MAGGI EASTER EGGHUNT
8:00am
Rose Garden

April 15
SMARTIES KIDDIE PARTY
Children's Park

April 15
SMARTIES MAGIC SHOW
Malcolm Square

April 22
NESTLÉ BEAR BRAND KITE FEST
Melvin Jones

April 23
WORSHIP SEMINAR & SERVICES
Athletic Bowl c/o
Church of Christ

April 27
LIBERATION OF BAGUIO
Veterans Park/Melvin Jones

April 28
GRAN CORDILLERA
Melvin Jones/Athletic Bowl

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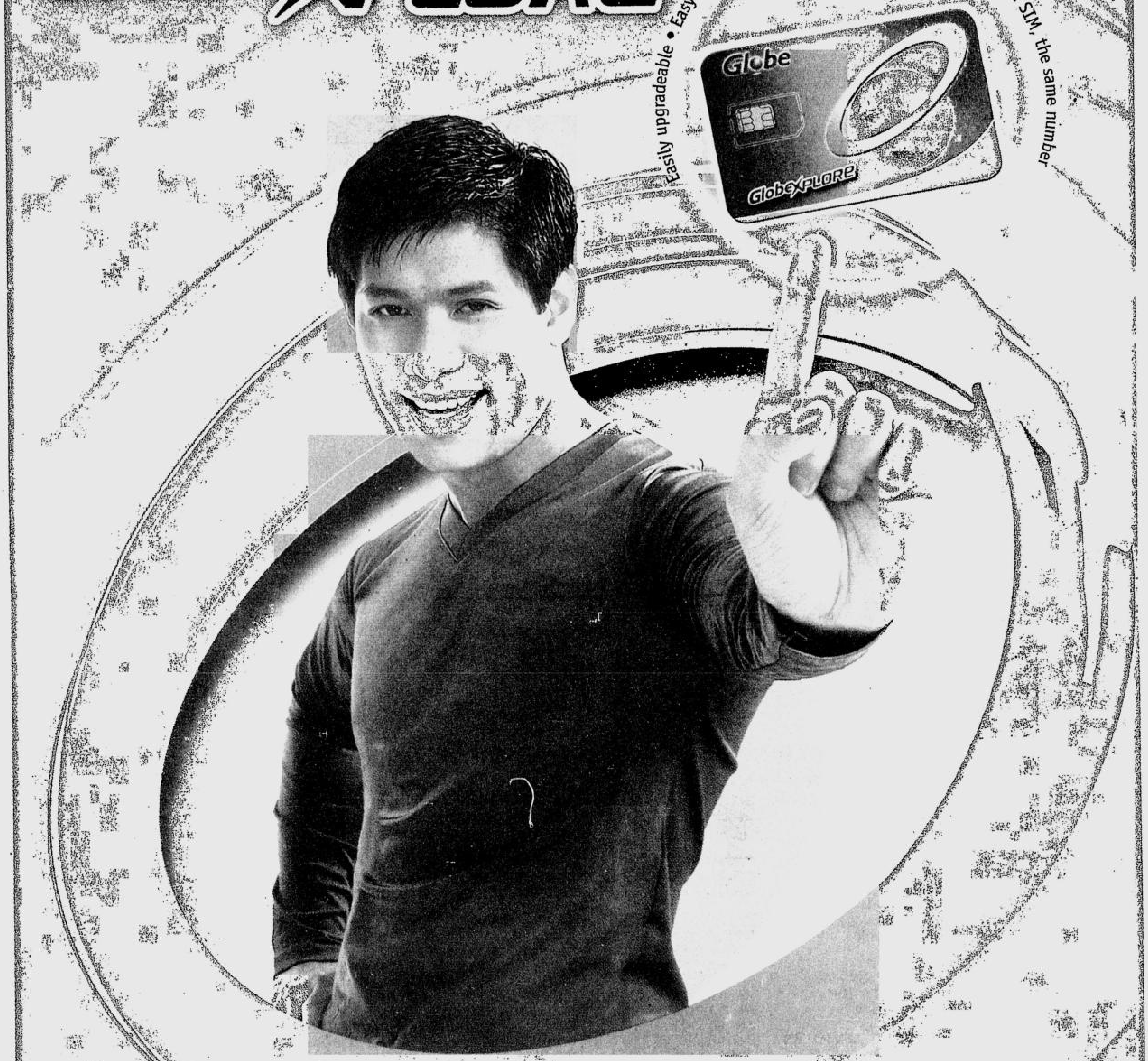

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Weddings & Engagements

LIFESTYLE

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VILLASOR-LEONOR

Attraction of opposites

The wedding was a study in contrast: rites at a basilica and reception al fresco

BY DONNIE C. RAMIREZ

SOMETIMES, seemingly disparate elements work together to make a harmonious whole. This was evident at the wedding of popular juniorsetter Rean Villasor and Dina Leonor. Standing over 6-ft tall, the groom is the typical tall, dark and handsome young man, while the bride is a petite and fair-skinned beauty.

The choice of the wedding venue and the reception was also an interesting study in contrast. The nuptial mass was celebrated by Bishop Filomeno Bactol at the solemn and somber-Basilica of San Sebastian with its imposing Gothic dome and turrets, while the reception was held al fresco at the romantic gardens of Baluarte de San Diego in Intramuros.

Rean is the son of Dr. Roy and Muchit (née Mejia) Villasor. He holds a business degree from De La Salle University. Dina is the daughter of prominent society couple Domingo and Nene (née Santos) Leonor. She took up hotel and restaurant management at the famous Swiss culinary school Les Roches.

The simple bridal gown by Paolo Basa was of eggshell-white pink organdy embellished with tiny pearls and cut-crystal beads. Dina's 6-yard tulle veil was held by an heirloom hairpin. The groom wore a *calado-ed piña* barong with intricate hand embroideries.

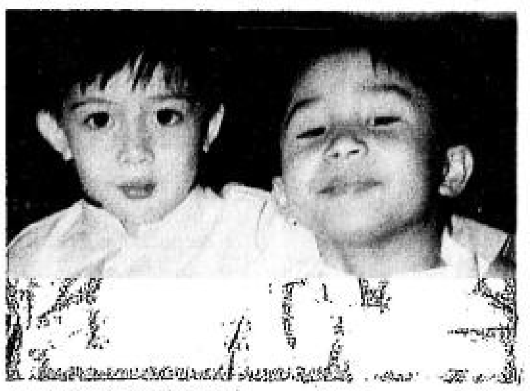
Rustan's house designer Rhett Eala created the entourage's periwinkle Due gowns with silver-gray accents. The female principal sponsors, however, opted for their own designers. Dr. Loi Ejercito, now a senatorial bet, wore an ecru gown by Joe Salazar. Meldy Cojuangco was in a Pitoy Moreno, Mely Hechanova in an Inno Sotto and

ATTRACTION/ p.F4

NENE Leonor and Muchit Villasor

FELY Avecilla and Yaying Dragon

BETTINA Osmeña and Melissa Lopez



L[illegible] attendants [illegible] Leon [illegible] Ruffy Oledan

HON. SECRETARY HERNANDO B. PEREZ gave an inspirational talk to the **Junior & Senior Classes of Our Lord's Grace Montessori School & Colleges** during their **JS Prom** held at the Shangri-La EDSA PLAZA HOTEL, Madaluyong City on March 23, 2001. ADVT.

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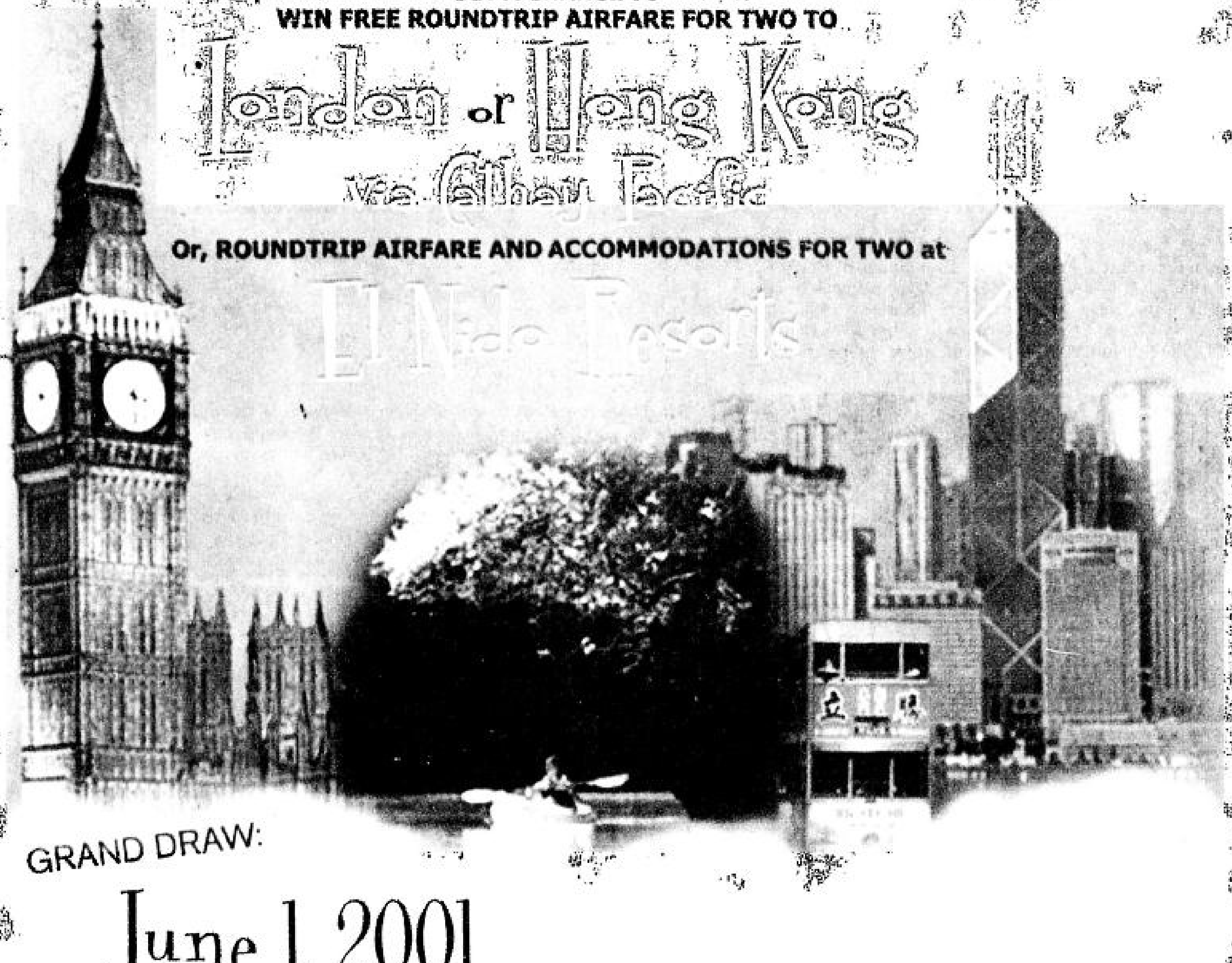

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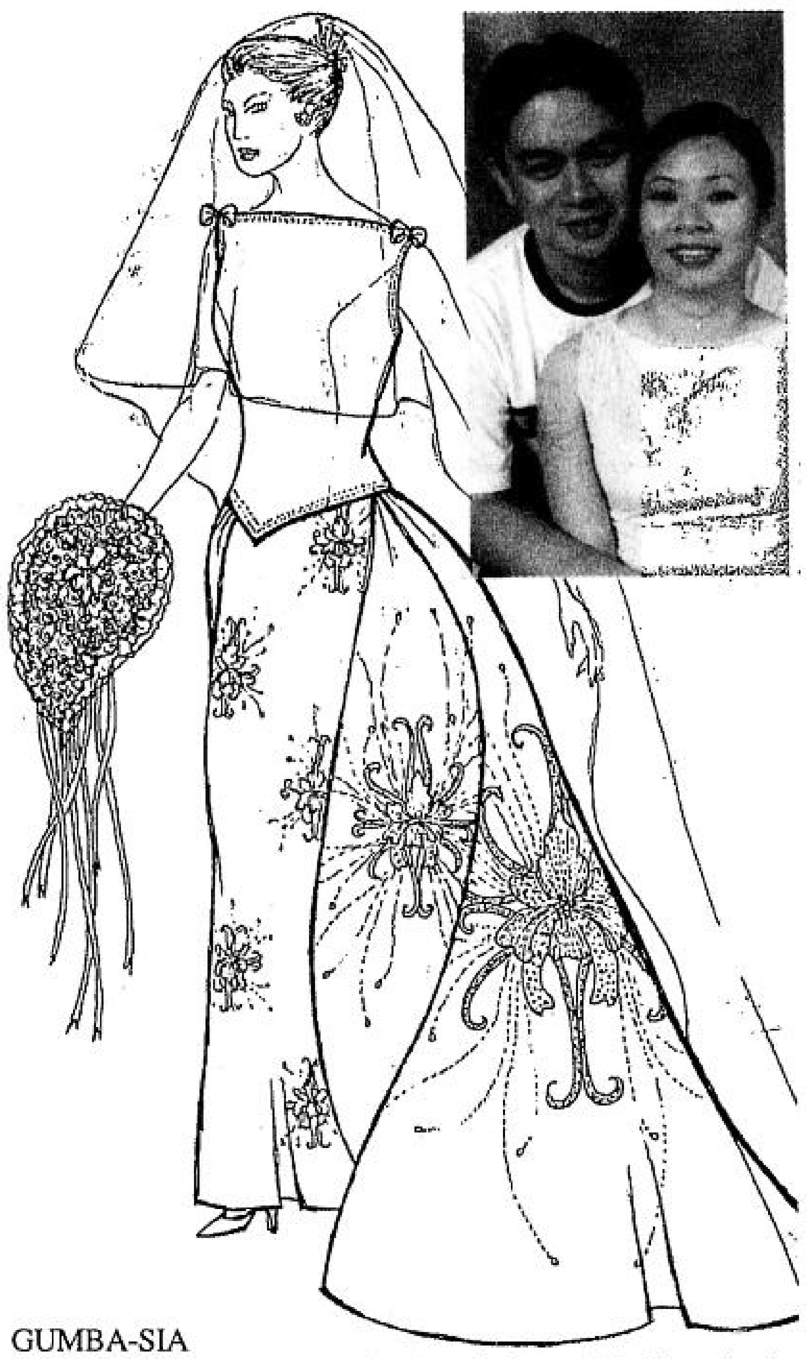
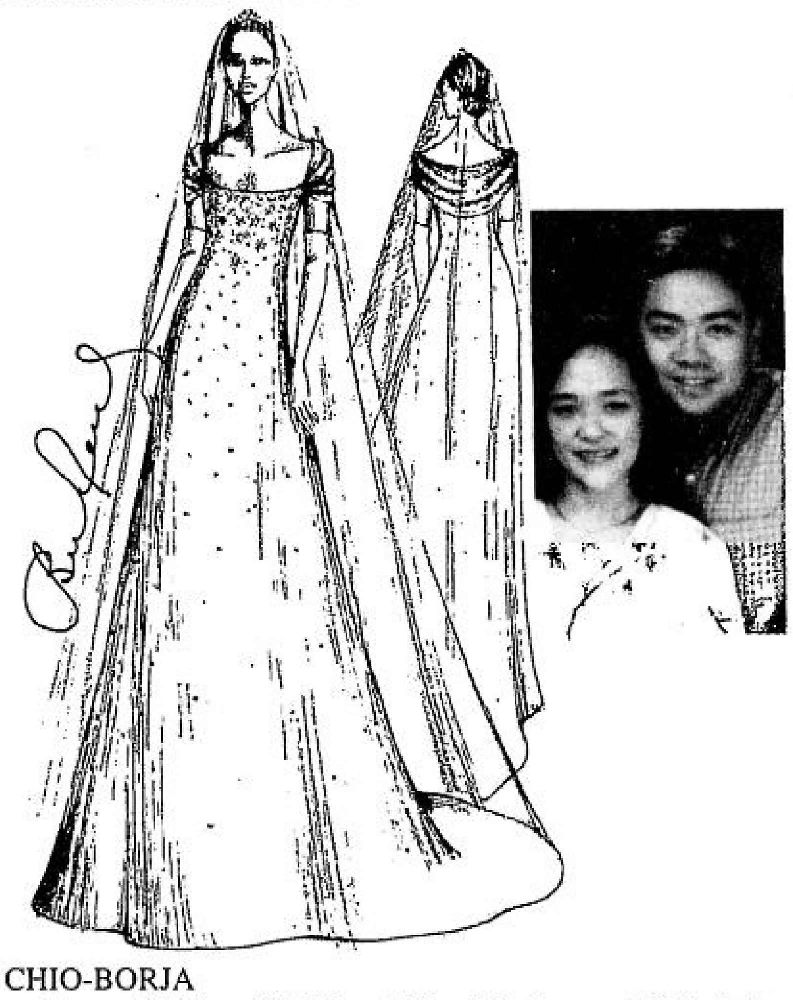
Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least two weeks before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.



GUMBA-SIA

Niño Grumeth Gumba, son of engineer **Justino** and Ms **Glenn Gumba**, will exchange vows with **Anna Marie Sia**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Manny Sia**, on April 20, at the San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila. Reception will follow at Father Blanco's Garden. The bride will wear **Butch M. Gumba** creation.

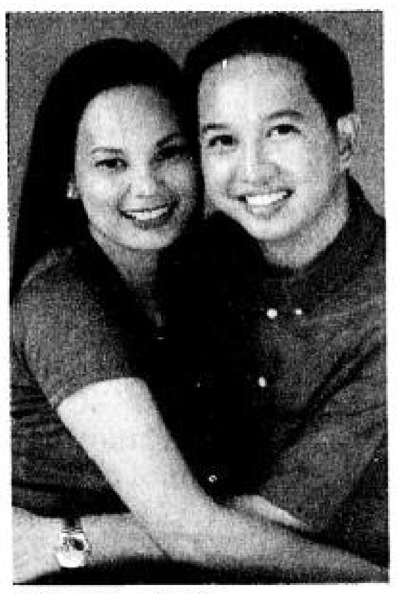


CHIO-BORJA

Judge and Ms **Manuel C. Chio** and Mr. and Ms **Emmanuel B. Borja Sr.** have announced the wedding of their children, **Martin Clarence** and **Nancy**, respectively, on April 21 at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish, Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue, New Manila, QC. Reception will follow at the Rigodon Ballroom, Peninsula Manila. **Ben Farrales** designed the gowns of the bride and her entourage.

MENDOZA-AMPIL

Dennis Mendoza and **Marissa Ampil** exchanged marriage vows at the San Agustin Church recently. The bride is the only daughter of former commissioner of customs **Boy Ampil** and **Drina Ampil** while the groom is the son of **Lito** and **Rosie Mendoza.** The wedding sponsors are shown with the couple. From left, **Ruby Rodriguez, Glady Cabuñag, Teresita Zamora, Julie Gamboa, Sylvia Farolan, Pinky del Rosario-Zeller, Jose Pardo, Domingo Siazon Jr., Panfilo Lacson, Eligio Santos Jr., Jaime Mendoza** and **Roy Villadiego.**



BRAVO-LICUP

Dr. **Miguel Bravo** and Dr. **Ana Teresa Licup** will tie the knot on April 18 at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

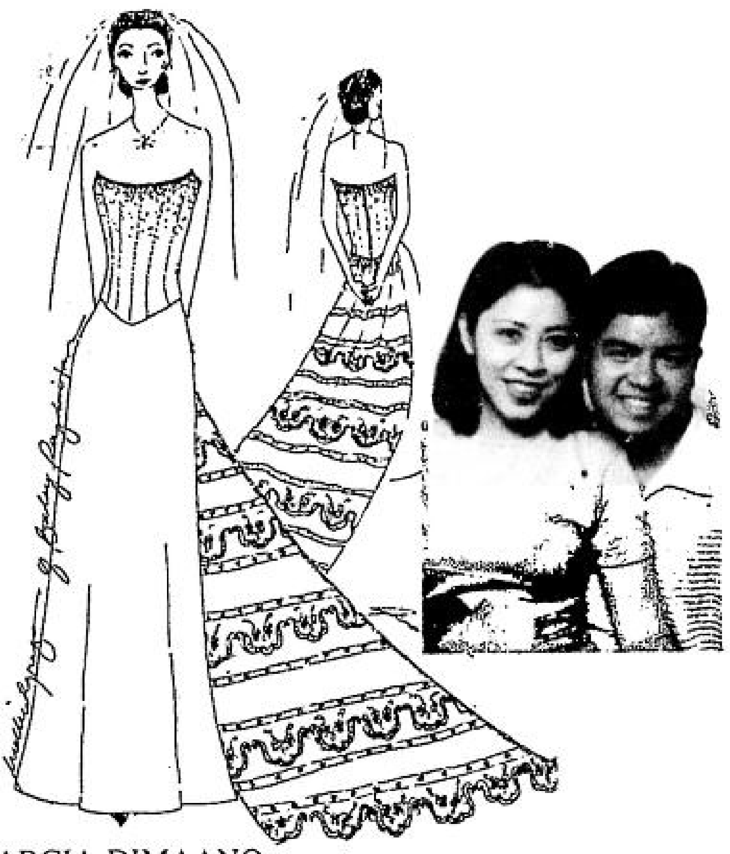
Joe Nicolas and the Manila Strings will serenade the newlyweds, their friends and family during the reception at the Coconut Palace. The bride's gown and those of her entourage were designed by **Minette Reyes-Santiago**.

TUPAZ-ALMALVEZ

Arlene Cartago Almalvez, daughter of **Corazon Cartago vda. de Almalvez**, will wed **Jonathan Aquino Tupaz**, son of **Gabriel** and **Nita Tupaz**, on April 30 at the Archbishop's Palace at Villa San Miguel. Msgr. **Socrates Villegas** will officiate the ceremonies.

URETA-MIRANO

Mark Silverio Lopez Ureta married **Conchitina Halili Mirano** on Dec. 16 at the Queen of Peace Church in Bacolod City. Fr. **Emilio Ascano** officiated the ceremonies. Mark is the son of architect **Silverio** and **Carlota Ureta** while Tina is the daughter of lawyer **William and Conchita Mirano**. Reception followed at the La Proa Ballroom of L'Fisher Hotel.



GARCIA-DIMAANO

Ma. Katherine B. Dimaano, daughter of **Renato** and **Carmilita B. Dimaano**, tied the knot with **Exequiel E. Garcia Jr.**, son of **Exequiel Sr.** and **Virginia E. Garcia**, on April 7 at the San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila. Reception was held at the New World Renaissance Hotel, Makati.

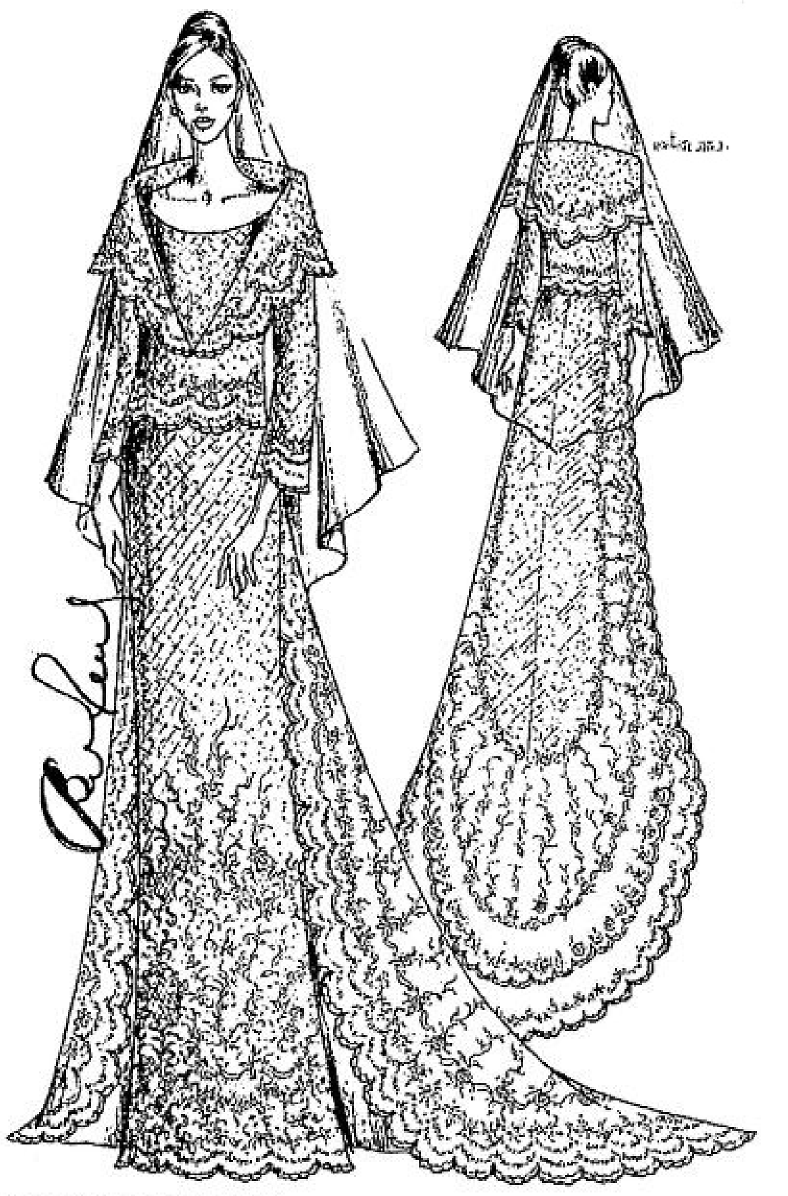
The bride wore a two-piece ivory gown of duchess satin and a detachable train made of French lace accentuated by intricate beadwork, cut glass and Swarovski crystals designed by **Rollie H. Graza** of Balay Pagdaitan.

SINGZON-YERRO

Ma. Lourdes Ureta Yerro, daughter of **Juan** and **Fortunata Yerro**, wed **Gregory Reyes Singzon**, son of the late Judge **Pablo** and **Petra Singzon**, on Dec. 12, 1999 at the Basilica de San Sebastian. Fr. **Lino Agunod** officiated the ceremonies. **Jun Marcelino** made the gown.

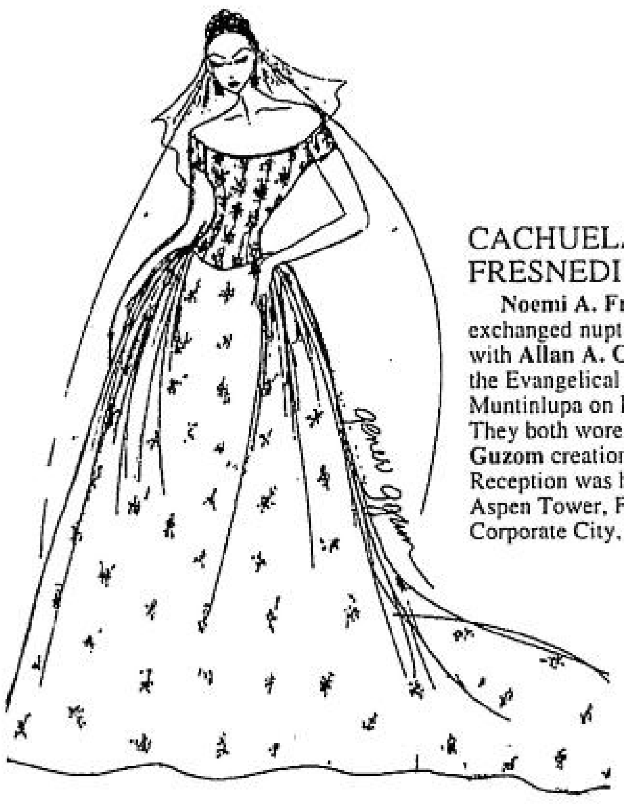
DUMLAO-TIONGSON

Peachy Anne V. Tiongson, daughter of lawyer and Ms **Melvin P. Tiongson** of Solano, Nueva Vizcaya, will wed **Hermegildo C. Dumlao II**, son of lawyer and Ms **Hermenegildo C. Dumlao** of Quezon City, on June 22 at the Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City. Msgr. **Ramon B. Villena** will officiate the ceremonies. Reception will follow at the Garden Ballroom of the Edsa Shangri-La Manila.



JESUELE-FAYLONA

Leonard and **Rose Jesuele** have announced the wedding of their son **Robert Ralph** to **Barbara Angelica**, daughter of **Donato** and **Christina Faylona**, on April 21 at St. Martin of Tours Church on Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, California. Reception will follow at the Villa Alverno, Sierra Madre, California. **Ben Farrales** designed the gowns of the bride and her entourage.



CACHUELA-FRESNEDI

Noemi A. Fresnedi exchanged nuptial vows with **Allan A. Cachuela** at the Evangelical Church of Muntinlupa on March 24. They both wore **Gener Guzom** creations. Reception was held at the Aspen Tower, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang.

MANABE-VALDERAMA

Ihti Manabe, son of **Ai Manabe**, wed **Dhen Valderama**, daughter of **Josefina Valderama**, on March 16 at St. John the Baptist Parish Church, Calamba, Laguna. Reception was held at the Riverview Resort and Conference Center.

DAVID ANNIVERSARY

Rodino and **Marilyn David** celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on Jan. 27 at the Sto. Niño Parish Church in San Fernando, Pampanga. Reception was held at the Holiday Land Restaurant.

BALINGIT AND CHAVEZ DEBUTS

Kristine Anne Chavez Balingit and **Paula Patricia Pineda Chavez** celebrated their 18th birthdays on Jan. 7, at the Celebrity Club in Quezon City. Kristine is a fashion design freshman at Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand while Paula is a fine arts freshman at the University of Santo Tomas. Their gowns were designed by **Vanezah Campos.**

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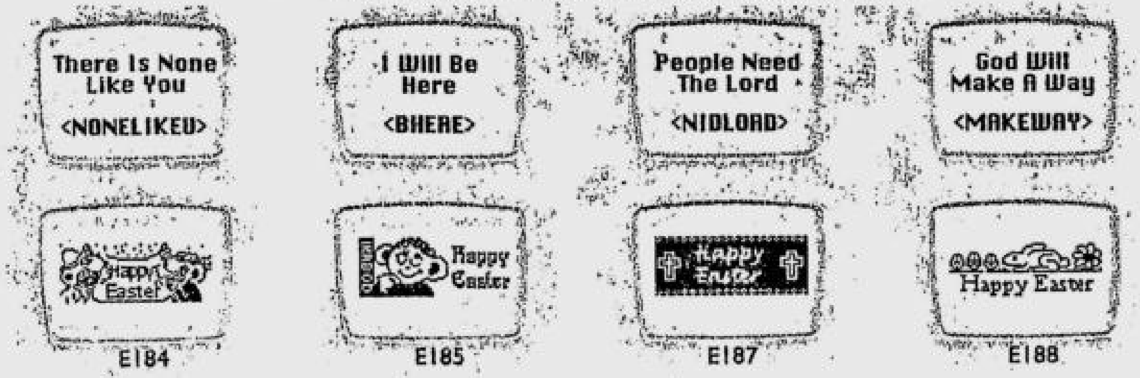
There Is None Like You
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I Will Be Here
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People Need The Lord
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Happy Easter
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Happy Easter
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Happy Easter
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THE NEWLYWEDS with principal sponsors Letty Bonoan, Fe Rodriguez, Viring de Asis, Naty Pappas, Vilma Valera, Mely Hechanova, Meldy Cojuangco, Dr. Loi Ejercito, Faustino Salud, Manoling Morato, Ces Rodriguez (proxying for artist Malang Santos), Anthony Dee, Ado Escudero, Jacobo Santos, Manuel Recto and Arturo Lazatin

Attraction of opposites

(From page F1)

Viring de Asis in a Boysie Villavicencio original. The other fashionable *ninangs* were the bride's aunts Fe Rodriguez and Letty Bonoan, shipping magnate's wife Naty Pappas and the exquisite Vilma Valera of the Two Hearts Foundation.

Their male counterparts were lawyer Faustino Salud, artist Mauro Malang Santos (proxied by Ces Rodriguez), banker Anthony Dee, former MTRCB chair Manoling Morato, resort owner Ado Escudero, and businessmen Jacobo Santos, Manuel Recto and Arturo Lazatin. The best man was the groom's lawyer-brother Roy Villasor and maids of honor were the bride's sister Lia Leonor and best pal Maxine Chua.

Rounding up the entourage were bridesmaids Cris Bonoan and Bonnette Bacalano; junior bridesmaids Anya Villasor and Shalica Cruz; groomsmen Paul Macasaet and Benjie Lopez; candle sponsors Mary Faye Garcia and Junboy Leonor; veil sponsors Mara Oledan and Gary Dy; and cord sponsors Mia Leonor and Junie Rodriguez. The little attendants were Angela Leonor, Arianna and Regina Villasor and Bea Oledan, flower girls; Andrew Leonor, ring bearer, and Raffy Oledan, coin bearer. Basti Lacson emceed the lively program at the reception.

Rean and Dina had to defer their honeymoon until after the 40th wedding anniversary of his parents. They are now touring the United States, enjoying the beaches of Waikiki, the awe-inspiring Grand Canyon in Armona and the fabulous nightlife of Las Vegas. Upon their return next month, the couple and their year-old daughter Hanna will make their home in a condo overlooking Manila Bay. Both food lovers and expert cooks, Rean and Dina plan to open a small restaurant near his alma mater—La Salle. Cheers to a good life together and forever!

KOKOY and Juliet Romualdez with bride's mom Nene Leonor

QC Mayor Mel Mathay, Suzanne Laudico, Marietta Santos and Celia Diaz-Laurel

REAN and Dina with secondary sponsors Mia Leonor, Mara Oledan, Mary Faye Rodriguez, Junboy Leonor, Paul Macasaet and Junie Rodriguez

BRIDESMAIDS Bonnette Bacalano, Maxine Chua, Mary Faye Garcia and Cris Bonoan

FLOWER girls Angela Leonor, Bea Oledan, Shalica Cruz and Anya Villasor

THE AUTHOR, Lia Espiritu and Carmina del Rosario

FRANK Evaristo, Gilbert Perez and Mellie Ablaza

TONY Bonoan with Toto and Pachot Mapa

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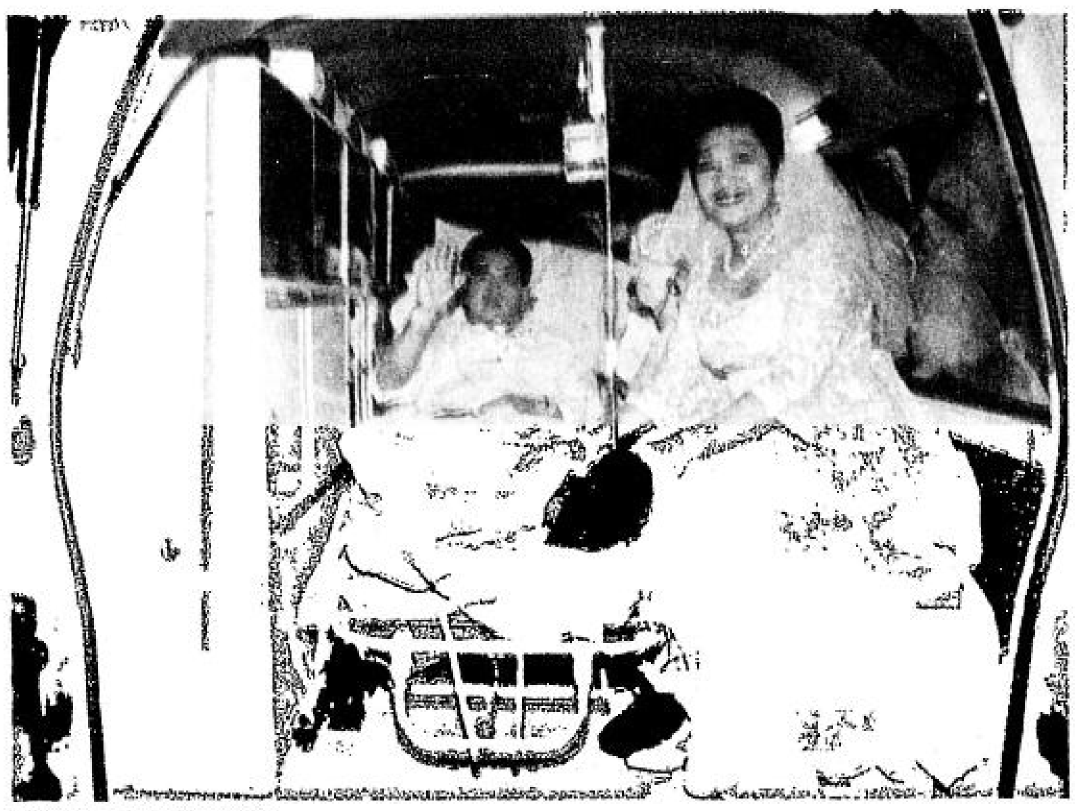
MR. and Mrs. Peter T. Ortiz with Nilda Zapanta, Nora S. Robles, Erlinda S. Pastoral, Gilda Salonga, Annie Salonga, Benjamin Pastoral Sr., Rodolfo Robles, Benjamin S. Salonga Jr., Edward Carlos and Ronaldo Salonga

WITH Cynthia Valenciano, Fely M. Embrador, Rolly Embrador, Martin Palad, Siony Palad, Ellen Sevilla, Bernie Sevilla and Stephen Monte

Silver wedding anniversary becomes a test of faith

Three weeks before the anniversary rites, her husband suffered a stroke. Despite his condition, the rite pushed through and the joy in the couple's faces was unmistakable



PETER and Marilyn Ortiz

WITH their children, Philip Erwin Ortiz, Herbert Rommel Ortiz and James Michael Ortiz

ON DEC. 14, 1975, a young Filipino couple walked down the aisle. It was a simple wedding like many that still take place in the provinces. Friends and relatives of the bride and groom traveled to Manila to prepare the *lechon* and other delicacies to be served.

Peter and Marlyn Ortiz have since gone on to experience much success in business. Their MM Ortiz card, a four-payment multi-establishment credit card, has been credited with empowering consumers who would otherwise not have been given credit cards by the bigger card companies. They have also brought their business into high-end stores like Rustan's, Cinderella, Robinson's and Fairmart.

Their happy marriage is a rarity because it has truly been a partnership, although an unorthodox one by Filipino standards. Marlyn is the businesswoman and Peter is her adviser and staunchest supporter. Their 25th anniversary was a much-awaited affair and everyone was in the midst of hectic preparations when the unexpected happened. Three weeks before the celebration, Peter suffered a stroke.

Divine healer

Marlyn, a vibrant and dynamic woman, describes her experience. "When I first heard of the news, *parang hindi ko malaman ang sasabihin ko. Nandoon sa bag ko 'yung libro na* 'Yes Lord: Uniformity to the Father's Will.' *Sinabi ko na lang sa* Panginoon, 'Thank you for the beautiful 25 years You have given us, for the loving and faithful husband Peter has been to me. *Ikaw na lang ang bahala*'." She describes all the trials that followed as "faith-strengthening experiences."

The doctors pronounced Peter's condition as stable and improving. Marlyn, as an act of faith, decided to go through with their plans. Then a week before the anniversary, the doctor informed her Peter would not be able to go. As she describes it, "*Sinabi ko, 'Alam niyo*, Doc, *may* Divine Healer *din kasi siya, kaya't tingnan na lang natin. May isang linggo pa naman.*'"

A few days before the event, Peter's doctor said, "*Malakas ho yata talaga kayo sa itaas. Sige ho*, improved *ang* condition *niya, puwede na siyang pumunta.*" Marlyn rejoiced at this only to be told on the day of the celebration that Peter could only go in an ambulance with a doctor and two nurses. But providentially, as is the case with much of this story, they were able to find them at the 11th hour.

Sylvia Pimentel-Yuzon of Flowers by Sylvia, who decorated the St. James Cathedral in Alabang, describes her amazement at the behavior of the crowd assembled in church to attend the Mass. "It's not unusual to see a big crowd," she said, "but it is unusual to have them wait so patiently for three hours!"

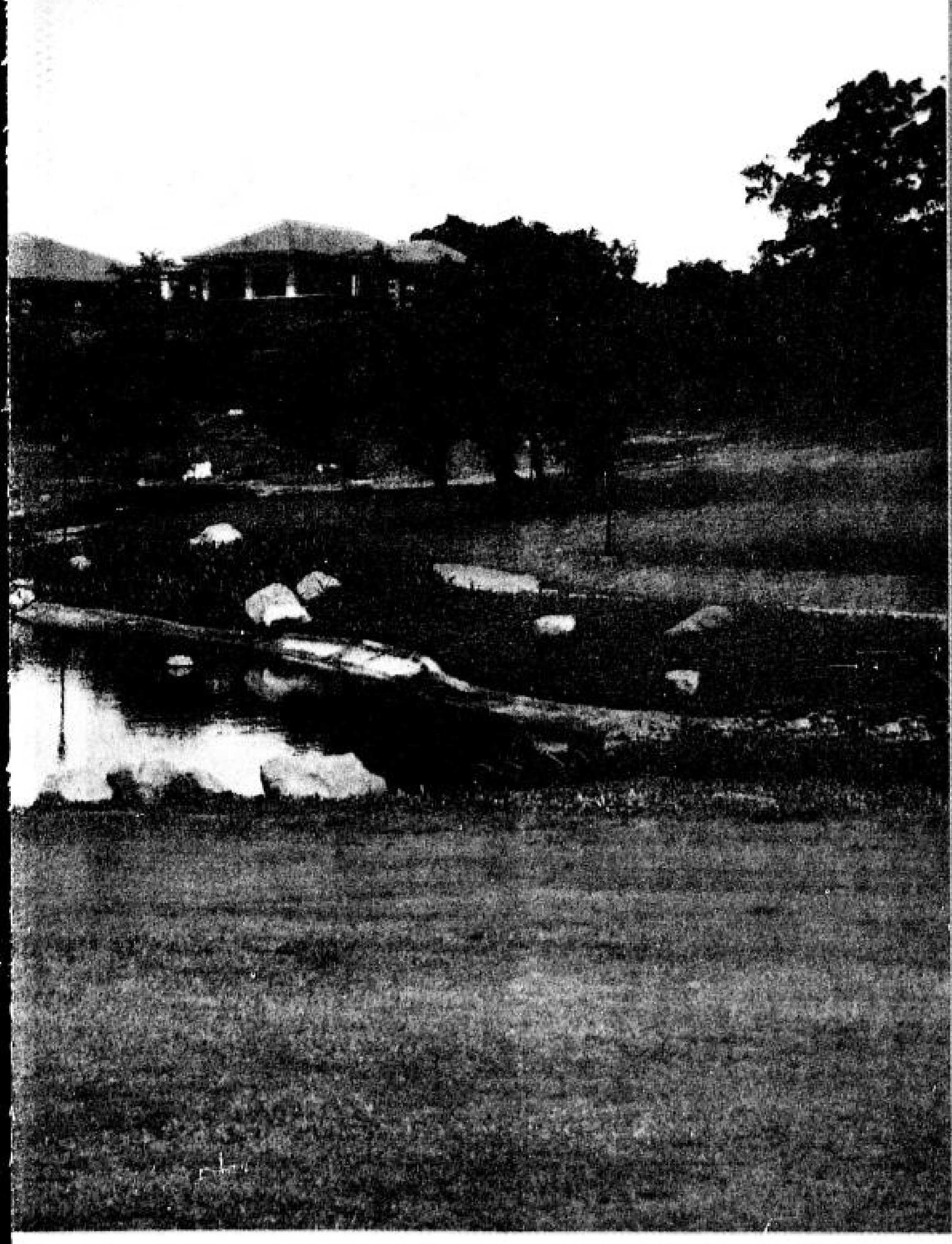
Shock and joy

The logistical difficulties set everything back, but the guests didn't complain and even drove an hour further to the reception at Manila Southwoods. Many of them had not been told of Peter's condition and were shocked at the sight of him in his wheelchair. But there was no mistaking the joy in both Marlyn and Peter's eyes. "Peter wanted so much to attend," Marlyn said, "and truly God made it possible for him to go."

The Ortiz family—Marlyn, Peter and their three sons—felt the love and concern of all who made the evening something to treasure. Many of those who had been part of their wedding 25 years ago, and many others who have since become part of their lives joined in thanking God for 25 wonderful years.

"If there is one thing that this has taught me," Marlyn says, "it's that surrender to God, although difficult, always brings joy. There have been many 'coincidences' along the way, things that I couldn't explain except by saying that God was preparing me for this, as He always tries to do in our lives, and I thank Him for the grace to finally listen and let Him work in us. I know that Peter is recovering slowly but surely, and is learning to listen to the Lord as I have done. We truly have a reason to celebrate."

own backyard.



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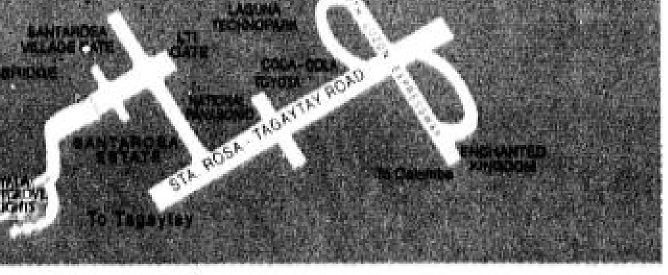

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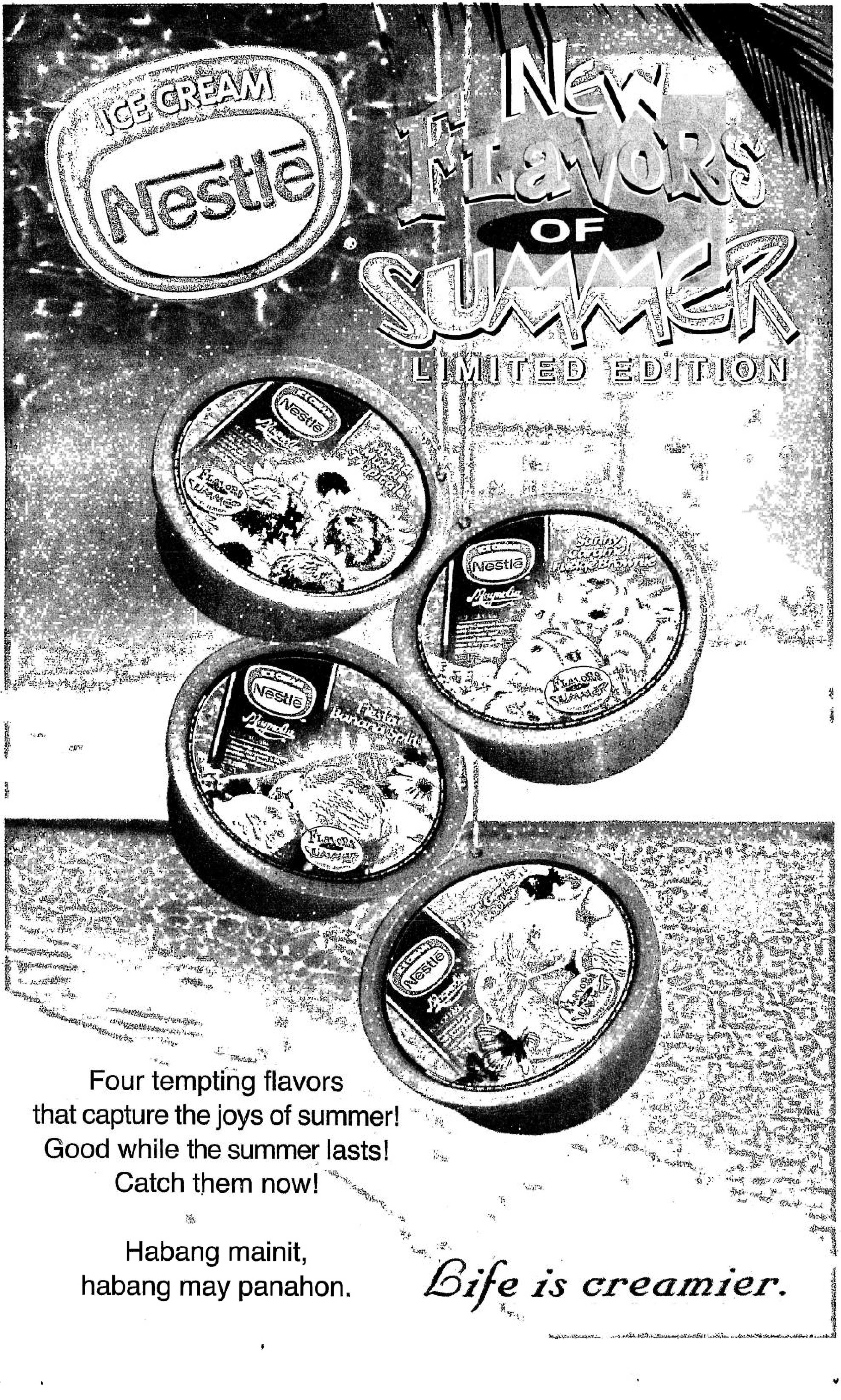
NEWLY crowned Miss Puerto 2001 Irene Rey (center) and her court (from left) Michelle Solomo (third runner-up), Kris Ann Joy Cabal (second runner-up), Elizabeth Watt (first runner-up) and Marie Eunice Monteverde (fourth runner-up)

BOARD OF JUDGES. Beauty queen-actress Alma Concepcion, director Dino Veloso, Ellen Hagedorn, couturier Eddie Baddeo, fashion editor Noelle Boado and Street Jeans vice president Judith Ty



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Puerto Princesa crowns a princess

THE RECENT search for the Mutya ng Puerto Princesa 2001, held at the People's Amphitheater, Mendoza Park, coincided with the city's 129th foundation day.

With the noble aim of uplifting the image and spirit of the women of Puerto Princesa, the search, which was spearheaded by the city's first lady, Ellen Marcelo Hagedorn, with her team of hardworking ladies led by Connie Aban, focused not only on beauty of face but on wit and intelligence as well.

Talent night showcased the gifts and skills of the 20 lovely candidates. The panel of judges for this year's search, chaired by designer Eddie Baddeo, were former defense secretary Orly Mercado, Street Jeans vice president Judith Ty, fashion editor Noelle Boado, Street Jeans designer Osler Ladia, recording artist Maricon Borja and former beauty queen and actress Alma Concepcion.

FORMER defense secretary Orly Mercado

The coronation show, which carried a '70s theme, was directed and choreographed by Dino Veloso and Ronnie Reyes with comedian actor Smokey Manaloto and Cynthia Sumagaysay as hosts. Casual wear was provided by Street Jeans. Shoes and swimwear were designed by Reyes and evening gowns worn by the candidates were designed by Baddeo.

PUERTO Princesa City first lady and search committee chair Ellen Marcelo Hagedorn (seated) with committee officers Connie Aban, Gina Murray and Rose Bautista

ELLEN Hagedorn with Mayor's Cup awardee Baham Mitra, son of the late speaker Ramon Mitra

A housewife shares remedies for body odor

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I am writing this letter for the lady, Dying To Be Helped, who wrote regarding her body odor. I know there are many out there with the same problem and I would like to share what I know.

I am now a happy housewife, 27 years old. I started to have B.O. back in elementary school. Only in 1998 did I find out in your column about a Dr. Anthony A. Acedillo. I did not hesitate to seek his professional help because I had become insecure, introvert and ashamed of myself because of B.O. Like Dying To Be Helped, in college even the slightest activity would make me perspire, so before anyone could smell me, I would cut classes and go home.

Dr. Acedillo explained that the operation wouldn't be without scars. He would excise the sweat glands along with some hair follicles, hence no more sweat and less hair to grow. It's been two years now since I underwent operation and, thank God, no more foul smell in my underarms.

If Dying To Be Helped cannot afford to undergo the operation, may I suggest she use Dry Idea brand of antiperspirant in stick form. It can be bought from PX stores and at Somera in Glorietta, Makati. I use it as an added protection, and I wash my underarms with Betadine cleanser. They work for me as a team as Betadine washes off bacteria thriving in moist areas such as underarms, feet, creases and folds of the skin. During weekends, when she has time at home, she can try to rub *calamansi* under her arms; it keeps them white and loosens accumulated debris that washcloths cannot remove. She should also avoid borrowing clothes from others and sharing hers to avoid contamination.

As to her feet, I have tried using Fissan foot deodorant powder and Tinactin powder. Both are effective in absorbing moisture. May I also suggest she avoid using footwear with rubber insoles and try to use open-toe shoes. It keeps insteps dry and well ventilated.

As to her halitosis, she may have sinusitis as this also causes bad breath. She has to consult an EENT, brush her teeth after every meal and floss before going to bed. A tongue scraper is also best.

And the last, about her vaginal odor. It may be a vaginal infection, from poor hygiene (wiping tissue from back to front), being diabetic, or a hormonal imbalance. My OB-Gyne prescribed Sultrin vaginal suppositories for foul-smelling discharge. Of course, she has to consult an OB-Gyne for proper diagnosis. In the meantime, she can use Lactacyd as a vaginal wash.

I hope I have given her ample help about her situation. I have undergone the same dilemma and this is the only way I can help people with the said situation. Thanks and more power.

SURVIVOR A

Thank you for your thoughtfulness. This comes a little late for her, but so many have written me recently about this same problem, saying that summer brings not only fun but a lot of sweat.

Readers who would like to get in touch with Dr. Acedillo can see him at the FEU Hospital where he is the head neurologist. Sweating on the face and hands calls for sympathectomy, and Dr. Acedillo is the only MD here in the Philippines qualified to do it.

* * *

I would like to share the great results I had from my diabetes and I would like your readers to know about them.

As you know, I had Type 2 (non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus or NIDDM) diabetes, which I only learned in 1997 when my doctor-sister told us to have blood chemistry. It was then that I learned I had Type 2 diabetes. My blood sugar then was very, very high. I had difficulty resisting sweets. No wonder I always had to go to the john. I felt sleepy even during daytime. My arms and lower extremities were always numb.

Recently, I found a nutritional food supplement good for Type 2 diabetes. NIDDM is caused by hypertension, obesity, heredity, lifestyle, etc., although there are now medicines available in drugstores. I had mine treated by dieting through this nutritional food supplement. I am writing you because I know a lot of people may not know they are diabetic, especially those who have symptoms like mine. According to the pharmacology book, about 80-90 percent of diabetics are Type 2, and this is a silent killer according to the book. Tita, I can be contacted at 750-4344 or e-mail scgo_8@pinoymail.com for those who want to know about this nutritional food supplement.

SHON

Thank you for your concern for diabetics. I've decided to publish your letter since you are referring only to a food supplement, not a medication. Of course, readers who will get in touch with you should also consult their doctors about it. Thanks and best wishes.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

Even if she's filed for annulment, her husband still tries to win her back

LOVE NOTES

Joe D' Mango

DEAR Joe,

I've been through several relationships trying to find the one who'd make my life complete, until I found the "supposedly right guy" whom I married.

My marriage is in shambles. My husband and I have become absolute strangers to one another. It started when I told him about my past relationships with my ex-boyfriends, as I would like to be open and honest with him and be accepted for who I am.

Since then, he hasn't trusted me even though I've tried my best to prove him wrong. I've been subjected to so much verbal, emotional and physical (including sexual) abuse, which I don't deserve. Whenever I would not yield or give in to his "whims" (i.e. sexual demands), he would bring back the issue about my past relationships with my ex-boyfriends.

I would like to start anew and straighten out my life. I met someone when I was still single. He expressed his feelings for me. But it was too late since I was already pregnant then. We stopped communicating for about a year.

Recently, we met again and he has been more than a friend to me. He understands that I'm sincere and faithful in trying to change my life for the better. Notwithstanding my marital status, he still feels the same way for me. If ever he would be given the chance, he is willing to establish a relationship with me and my 2-year-old son.

I have decided to file for annulment no matter what the costs are. My friend is willing to wait. I've told him to go on with his life and if we're meant for each other, love would find a way. I've been trying to condition my mind to the fact that one day he wouldn't be there anymore. Right now, I would like to have my marriage annulled, get my life back and bring up my son in an environment of love, respect and trust. If my friend decides to stick it out for the long haul, then I would consider it a bonus.

I would like to seek your help. My husband has been uncooperative in the annulment of our marriage. He is trying to win me back. I have already told him that I have lost all love, trust and respect for him. I hope he would be enlightened and realize that there is no way I am going to take another chance with him and experience the trauma all over again.

MARIE

It seems like your husband has not come to terms yet with your past. He still can't accept the fact that he was not the first in your life. You only had good intentions when you told him about your previous relationships but sometimes, the past is better left where it was. Not all husbands can be very open-minded about their wives' sexual history.

Marie, I will never condone physical and sexual abuse in any relationship. No matter how much wrong someone has done or how much pain and shame someone has inflicted upon us, we do not have any right to disrespectfully mistreat anyone. Whatever it was that your husband felt upon learning your past will never be enough to justify his abusive behavior.

Marriages should be built on the foundations of love, trust and mutual respect. When these elements fade, relationships will crumble and fall. Marie, you deserve to be treated with respect. You have the right to be happy. Not all weddings are made in heaven. Love doesn't always last forever. If this is where it will all end, then let time take its course and your troubled relationship find its rest.

But do not close the doors of your heart permanently. Miracles still happen and God works in ways that are just simply unbelievable. Let us always remember that there is a reason for every trouble that comes our way. We just have to believe that they are meant to make a clear path for something better to happen in our lives.

E-mail Joe D'Mango at lovenotes@amanet.net

'KASALAN SA INTRAMUROS'

Young and dynamic designers (from left) Edwin Uy, Michelle Lim, Malou Castillejos, R.B. Conanan, Joel Bautista, Joel Pros and Tito Franco (not in photo), join "Kasalan sa Intramuros" fashion show, which runs until today at Villa Immaculada, Intramuros, Manila (just behind Manila Cathedral). At right is the creation of Eddie Baddeo, one of the guest designers together with Noli Hans, Joe Salazar, Pitoy Moreno and Ben Farrales. The show is directed by Raymond Villanueva. The modern Filipina will be showcased today at 3 p.m. Event organizers are C&C Creative Concepts and Tamayo's Catering Services and Restaurants. The bridal exhibit is open to the public. Free admission from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Best year for weddings, says geomancer

"2001 is the best year to get married."

Thus spoke renowned geomancer Joseph Chau, explaining that the Year of the Snake in the Chinese calendar shows "a double spring and a double month (April)," a rare occurrence which augurs abundant blessings to newlyweds. This pronouncement and promise of marital harmony and bliss should encourage engaged couples to tie the knot this year.

Another reason for affianced couples to decide on a wedding this year is also to avail of Mandarin Oriental, Manila's special incentive to those who schedule their wedding reception in the hotel on a weekend, between April 1 and Nov. 30. Provided that they book before June 30 a reception for a minimum of 250 persons, the couples can enjoy any two of these perks: 10-percent discount for a lunch reception or 5-percent discount for a dinner reception; 25-percent discount for a limousine car for hire; complimentary room upgrade for the couple's overnight stay (if availing of the wedding package); complimentary pampering massage coupon for the bride; one-week free trial membership in Mandarin Oriental's Health Club for the couple; complimentary champagne for the presidential table for a maximum of 10 persons for the wedding toast; and free corkage for five regular-size bottles of wine/liquor.

Mandarin Oriental offers a Western wedding package for a minimum of 150 guests, inclusive of a host of amenities. The packages offer buffet and set menus, starting at P101,000. The hotel's Chinese wedding lauriat menus have become one of the hotel's more popular offerings, as culinary specialties from its award-winning Tin Hau restaurant offer selections from the diverse regions of northern and southern China. As in the western menus, two Chinese packages for a minimum of 150 persons are available, namely, the Gold package at P157,888 and P8,800 per additional table of 10 persons, and the Platinum package at P187,988.

Call 819-9667 or 750-8888 local 2220.

The early birds
get the perks.

It pays to be early.
Book your wedding reception at Mandarin Oriental from now until 30 June 2001 and avail of any two (2) of the following perks:

- Up to 10% discount off the standard banquet menu prices
- Champagne toast for the presidential table
- Complimentary corkage for five (5) regular-sized bottles of wine/ liquor
- Complimentary room upgrade
- Complimentary pampering massage for the bride
- 50% discount on valet and laundry for the bridal gown
- One-week free trial membership at the Health Club, personal programme for the couple included.

This special offer is only valid for wedding receptions held before 30 November 2001 for a minimum of 250 persons.

Call us now. For enquiries and reservations, please contact the Banquet Sales Department at 750 8888 extension 2405/2107.

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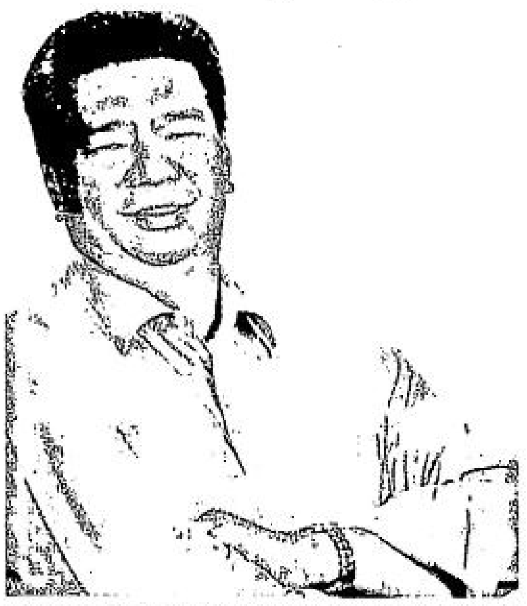
E-groups are fierce campaigners for 13-0 PPC sweep

COMPILED BY LITO ZULUETA

E-GROUPS have been furiously working to ensure a clean 13-0 sweep of the Senate elections in favor of the People Power Coalition. They are horrified at the thought that **Miriam Santiago** and her ilk would break into the winning circle. Particularly worrisome for them is Santiago's arrogance and warped sense of self-importance. They are circulating Miriam's remarks during a television show in which she called Filipinos critical of her as "species of lower life forms":

"Why should I be bothered by these Filipinos who are raising these protests against me? These same Filipinos who have not even set foot on Harvard or Oxford. I would be bothered if my professor in Cambridge were to take exception to my legal interpretation of a judicial matter. But to be bothered by a Filipino who may not even know that a Harvard exists, who can't even pass the UP entrance test, who wouldn't even understand discussions of such a high level even if they tried, why should I be bothered? I have no time to listen to these species of lower life forms."

Remarkable! Such eloquence from an amoeba!


FRANKLIN DRILON. *Kilabot ng mga kolehiyala*

Strike the Benetton pose

DO you have what it takes to be a Benetton model? The worldwide Italian brand is searching for one hip chick and one cool guy, between the ages of 14 and 35, to be the new faces of Benetton.

The stakes are high—round-trip airfare, cash, accommodation, Benetton wardrobe, a frenzied career, and becoming known for posterity as the first Pinoy or Pinay to become a Benetton model.

Those interested may fill out the application form at any participating Benetton shop nationwide and submit their best close-ups or full-body photos. Deadline is April 15.

Darling of the youth

FRANKLIN Drilon has gotten catcalls for crying unabashedly after losing the infamous Senate impeachment vote that resulted in the resignation of Senate President **Aquilino Pimentel**. But to *colegialas*, he is the big man with a big heart who deserves another term in Senate. In a mock election recently at Assumption College in Makati, Drilon landed at the top of the heap. Most of his colleagues in the People Power Coalition filled the other slots, with independent candidate **Perfecto Yasay** placing 10th.

The results: Drilon (1,566), **Joker Arroyo** (1,512), **Juan Flavier** (1,421), **Ramon Magsaysay Jr.** (1,359), **Sergio Osmeña III** (1,313), **Manuel Villar** (1,240), **Winnie Monsod** (1,159), **Francis Pangilinan** (1,105), **Ralph Recto** (949), Yasay (933), **Wigberto Tañada** (685), **Ernesto Herrera** (647) and **Liwayway Chato** (590).

Drilon also topped a mock election by some 5,000 members of the

E-GROUPS/ p.G3

BENETTON AD. Do you want to be a Benetton model?

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Postgraduate: Masters, Research, Doctorate

Candidates must have the following initial qualifications:
☐ Acceptance or pre admission from any Spanish University
☐ Postgraduate course must be in line with candidates' professional background
☐ Intermediate level in Spanish
☐ 40 years old and below

Qualified Candidates must:

☐ Search for a Spanish University, in the following sites:
www.yahoo.es www.dices.com www.mec.es
☐ Contact the university and apply to the program
Apply to the scholarship on or before May 4, 2001 (deadline)

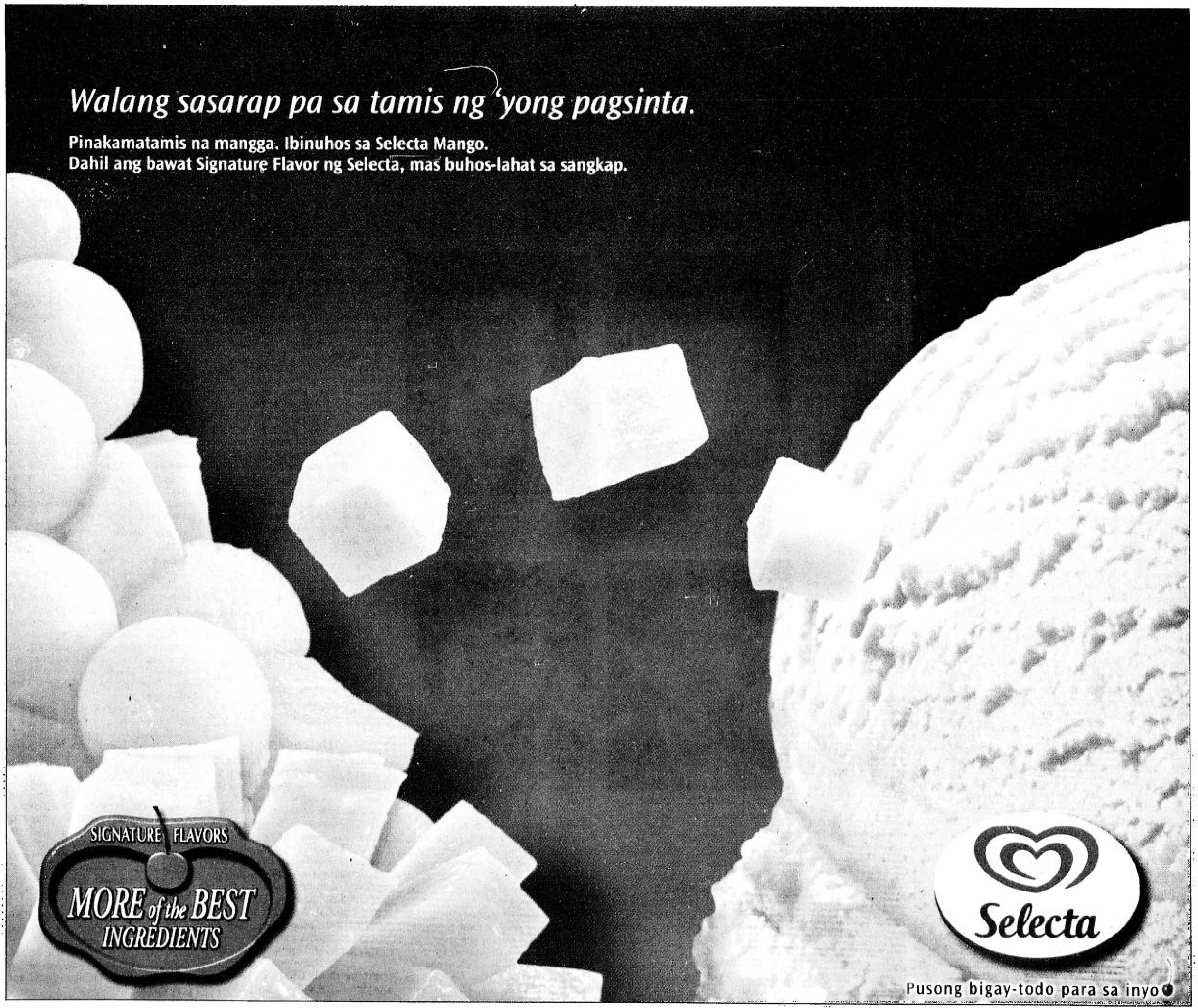
The following postgraduate courses will be offered, as well:
(details of the courses will be available upon request in the AECI)

Summer Language Courses: offered to qualified **students and professors** of the Spanish language to undertake one month course in Spain.

Specialized courses: offered to qualified and specialized professionals in specific fields, such as education, public administration, agriculture, economics, etc., to undertake courses organized by specialized Spanish Institutions.

General information talk shall be held on the 17th April 2001 at 6:30 pm at the Instituto Cervantes, for more information and clarification on the process.

Contacts: AECI (527.5755/56), www.aeci.org.ph /www.aeci.es (headquarters)
INSTITUTO CERVANTES: Spanish Classes (526.1482-85)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Memorable shows of the '70s, Princess Stephanie dates an elephant man and Bencab for a cause

BY ANTON SAN DIEGO

MUST-GO-TO restaurant: U-bar. For those looking for a healthy alternative to the greasy, artery-clogging cuisine that's out there, then this is what you are looking for. It's the restaurant of the 21st century, placing the health of the diner at its utmost importance. U-bar is a Singaporean-based restaurant and has opened its first franchise in Manila at the Rockwell's Power Plant Mall. They serve power-booster drinks, a mixture of fresh fruits, vitamins and minerals to which one can add muscle-building powder like creatine. They also serve sandwiches, pasta and salads. The sleek interiors promote healthy, clean living. It's the place to dine anytime and forget the rigors of work, stress, pollution and traffic. Diners will not be disappointed with the well-chosen menu and, contrary to what people think of healthy food, it's tasty.

"That '70s Show." One night I was channel-surfing and came upon a show titled "That '70s Show," and it brought back memories of television shows when I was a child. I remember being glued to the TV set and watching every show I possibly could (read: forget homework). With the advent of technology, TV today is so different from then.

There were only five channels; now there are more than 70. My favorite foreign shows were "Charlie's Angels," "6 Million Dollar Man," "The Bionic Woman" and "Fantasy Island." In terms of local shows, certain scenes come to mind rather than the whole show itself, and let me tell you: they are quite cheesy. I must warn the below-25 folks to skip this part and go on to the next topic. It's one of those you-had-to-be-there situations.

Do you remember, "Apat na Sikat" (this is my good friend **Melissa Lopez**'s favorite love teams) namely **Dondon Nakar** and **Winnie Santos**, **Arnold Gamboa** and **Lala Aunor**? "Seeing Stars" with **Joe Quirino** where he would give guests a can of biscuits? **Inday Badiday**'s show "Nothing but the Truth" where an agitated **Divina Valencia** hit a man on the head with a microphone and bled profusely? Probably the most memorable scene came from the show "For the Boys" with **Ariel Ureta** wherein **Ellen Esguerra** (a former starlet) was dancing seductively and her tube top dropped. But since she was such a trouper, she continued dancing. They put in a commercial and when they went back on air, Ureta was stunned. That sure was a treat for an eight-year-old!

I also loved watching Filipino movies on TV, some were even in black and white. My favorite black-and-white movie was "Dance-o-Rama" with **Susan Roces**. There was this really mean dormitory owner who always asked for the rent money. Her name: Mrs. Pay-me. Another movie that comes to mind is "Supergirl," which starred a girl named Pinky. As she battled this giant toad she would fly and punch it on the head over and over again. Well, just think about it this way: Our special effects in the movies have never been perfected even now, so to watch that scene was pure comedy!

MUST-GO-TO RESTAURANT. U-bar at the Rockwell Power Plant Mall

REBEL ROYALTY. Princess Stephanie who married her former bodyguard is now with an elephant tamer

Lastly, my all-time favorite is "Wonder Vi" because it starred **Vilma Santos**, and she played this Sheenaesque character who wielded a large bamboo as her means of defense. She was trying to protect this poodle which was launched into space but ended up in the Philippines. Isn't it a great plot?

Then there were the commercials. Two commercials really made a big impression on me that even today I remember them. One had to do with singer **Celeste Legaspi**. There was a car named Celeste and in the commercial she would sing while this car would drive by. I used to think, boy, this woman is rich! She has a car named after her.

The other commercial was this laundry detergent called Drive. In the ad they showed these green Pacman-like characters devouring all the dirt and germs on the clothes. My sister and I took out this tub, placed our clothes and added the detergent and waited for the green Pacman-like things to come out. Well, we waited and waited, no green Pacman, just suds.

There's actually more stories to tell which I will reserve for another time. Somehow TV then was so much more innocent, more family-oriented (except for the Ellen Esguerra episode). But I am not complaining. You can give me "Sex and the City" and "Survivor" any time with a dash of local shows like "Correspondents" or "Probe" and I will be happy.

TNT tidbits

Rebel royalty and the elephant man. You think after marrying her bodyguard (**Daniel Ducruet**), who was caught with his pants down (and more, check out the video), she would settle for a nice royal person. But not **Princess Stephanie** of Monaco, who has joined the circus and has hooked up with an elephant tamer, **Franco Knie**. The wayward princess skipped one of Monaco's social highlights, the Bal de la Rose, which she traditionally opens, and instead chose to hang out with Knie in a Swiss town for his performance. Stephanie met Franco seven years ago when his circus performed at Monaco. Now here's the catch. He's married and has three kids. His wife spoke to the press and said that Stephanie was a frequent guest in their home and they actually became good friends and even called her "Mamoune," the name she called her mother, **Princess Grace**. But in December, she got the worst gift of all—her husband told her that he was in love with Stephanie and was leaving her. She was confined in a hospital for 15 days for nervous breakdown. Well, if you think royalty is what it is, then think again.

Sketches for a cause. One of Manila's highly acclaimed painters, **Bencab**, whose works have been exhibited in London, Tokyo and New York and last week were auctioned in Sotheby's in Singapore, along with seven other painters from Tam-awan Village Artists (based in Baguio), will have a two-weekend on-the-spot portrait sketching. It will be held on April 28-29 and May 5-6. It's a fundraiser to help New Beginnings Inc., a drug rehabilitation center. This is a fantastic opportunity for those wanting to own a painting—have your portrait done, as well as help those in need. For more information, please contact **Josine Elizalde** at 817-9689 or 818-2055.

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com

BACOLOD Mayor Joy Valdez (center) receives Philippine Junior Jaycees delegates led by national president Frannie Maquinay of Cavite and host Bacolod Chapter president Katherine Dumdum, flanking her. Joining the group is Smart public affairs manager, Jo Clemente (to Dumdum's left).

A fellowship of young Jaycees

BACOLOD CITY pulsated with young blood one recent weekend as some 200 potential leaders of the land converged for the 26th annual Philippine Junior Jaycees National Convention.

The delegates came from as far north as Benguet to as far south as Zamboanga, for some fellowship and fun. Interspersed with the plenary sessions and group discussions were activities meant to enhance camaraderie.

A cheering competition among the different chapters was held at the gym of the University of St. La Salle, venue of the three-day convention. A poolside luau-style dinner party at Las Palmas del Mar resort was the setting for the Miss Junior Jaycees beauty contest which Sheryl de Guzman of the University of San Carlos Junior Jaycees won.

Bacolod City Mayor Joy Valdes received the delegates at her office and welcomed them to the city. A quick tour around the city and nearby towns like Silay, Talisay and the Victorias Milling Corp. complex followed. Director Peque Gallaga, one of the city's most prominent sons, also gave a talk on filmmaking at a little theater at La Salle, which his alma mater named in his honor.

Smart Communications Inc., which sponsored the convention, gave the youths an overview of Smart zed (with which they were quite familiar) and Smart Money, plus a peak into the future of the wireless world. Smart Product Development manager Marlon M. Mendoza made the presentation, assisted by public affairs manager Jo Clemente. The enthusiastic response of the delegates, between 17 and 26 years old, reconfirmed the IT and telecommunications savvy of their age group.

The delegates were mostly chapter and regional officers and were led by the national president, Frannie Maquinay of Cavite. The three-day convention was hosted by the Bacolod chapter, led by Katherine Dumdum.

The Junior Jaycees is a 3,000-strong youth organization which trains members in leadership and responsible citizenship. It has 100 chapters nationwide, mostly based in colleges and universities. Many members are children of members of regular Jaycees, although the two organizations are independent of each other.

SOME lucky delegates won Smart jackets,SIM packs, and cell phones during the product presentation by Smart, sponsor of the convention.

Would you rather be chic or cool?

BY KITTY GO

International dedicated followers of fashion tell you what they'd rather be and dissect the true meaning of being cool and staying chic

BEING a "dedicated follower of fashion" and happily unemployed ex-editor, I spend many sleepless nights and idle days pondering the ultimate fashion question, "Would I rather be chic or cool?" I realized that I could not answer this profound question without the help of other equally (or even more) dedicated fashion fans. **Barney Cheng**, Hong Kong's leading designer, quipped, "If you have to choose, then you are neither—just a wannabe." This coming from the man who designed **Michelle Yeoh**'s stunning Oscar cheongsam and who also advised me to "be cool and stay chic."

Generally, the twentysomething set of fashion followers wanted to be cool rather than chic. For now. **Pauline Suaco**, fashion editor of Preview, says, "Given my present age, twentysomething, I'd rather be cool because I'd like to make the most of the last few years in my 20s. But when I get into my 40s, I hope to be chic by then." **Julia Cuthbertson**, editor of the Weekend Financial Times of London, believes that you can't be really cool past 30 "unless you are in a band." She considers **Debbie Harry** and **Marianne Faithfull**, who are not exactly GenXers, to be cool. But then again, they were in a band.

Some boys couldn't make up their minds. "It" boy and Lifestyle columnist **Tim Yap** admits, "If you ask me to really choose—the fashion victim in me says chic but the big picture I see myself in says cool. If you are cool, then anything you wear, wherever you are and whatever you do, can become chic. Who says you can't have your cake and eat it, too?" Colombia-based (as in drug-exporting zone, Bogota) trendspotter **Gino de la Paz** confuses me more by saying, "Given that fashion is fickle, I would like to be both and neither at the same time. Lately though, I prefer the terms 'slightly off but sincere,' 'leftfield,' backdoor' and, sometimes, 'downright ugly.'" Of course, international favorite Naked Chef **Jamie Oliver** heads his cool list not only with cooking but with his attire of Captain America T-shirts.

Tireless world traveler and furniture gallery owner **Pearl Lam**, a self-proclaimed fashion victim currently swathed in Alaia, Gaultier and McQueen, resoundingly wants to be cool. She says, "Cool tells me that you are light years ahead of fashion revisionists," while wondering where is the fun and fantasy of chic. Suaco thinks the same by saying that being cool allows you to explore... before they become red hot trends and are mass-marketed. **Constance Haisma-Kwok**, Asia correspondent for Women's Wear Daily (WWD) and beauty columnist for South China Morning Post (SCMP), plays safe by saying that being cool or chic depends on the day, her mood, the company she'll keep and where she's going. "Still," she admits, "chic wins out more often." FT Weekend editor Cuthbertson put it clearly, "I think I'd rather be chic during the week and cool at weekends."

The definitions

"When I think chic, I think Hermes Kelly bags, Jil Sander suits, high heels, cashmere and shades of blonde and cream. When I think cool, I think LA Eyewear glasses, Prada bags, Robert Clergerie shoes, high-tech or totally of-the-moment looks that might be low-slung jeans, Farrah Fawcett jumpsuits, rhinestone T-shirts, camouflage," says Los Angeles-based **Kavita Daswani**, contributing editor for SCMP and Los Angeles Times. In the generation Y words of De la Paz, "Chic implies sleekness, a streamlined quality, ease... wearing your scarf like a starving artist, a tarnished pocket watch, and anything with a piped dickey. Cool, on the other hand, conjures '80s electro, eastern European flea markets, Sheila E. remixed, Manu Chao as the new Bob Marley... Stephen Sprouse again...and anything ripped and wrecked."

CONSTANCE HAISMA-KWOK. Women's Wear Daily Asia correspondent would more often be chic rather than cool.

PETER CHEUNG. Sotheby's deputy director thinks cool may just be too uncomfortable to be chic.

PAULINE SUACO. Wants to be cool now but chic in her 40s.

PEARL LAM. Chic-eccentric globetrotter and self-proclaimed fashion victim would rather be cool.

Paris-based **Caroline Young**, a photographer's agent and producer, thinks, "Chic is more subtle and elegant, and in some cases, graceful. Cool is more trend/fashion-oriented and associated with the music and fashion industries." Young counts **Tina Chow** and **Bianca Jagger** as the two most chic women in her book. Likewise, London-based **Nikki Rowntree**, editor of accessories trade magazine Out on a Limb, says, "Chic is understated, almost invisible, but perfect without overpowering. Cool is younger, experimental, effortlessly inventive and trend-setting."

For most of the fashion observers, cool is very much connected with the street and youth. **Kat Gomez**, Preview Prefers contributing editor, believes cool has to do with personality and spirit more than fashion. She explains, "You can be dressed in the height of designer fashion chic or you could be a walking fashion. It doesn't matter. But if you have a vibrance of personality and a confidence about the way you are, no matter how strange that may be, you're cool, baby." **Joey Larrazabal**, another Preview Prefers contributing editor, supports Gomez's view by saying that chic has to do with looking great and cool is about not caring who thinks so." Yap summarizes cool as, "If it could speak, it would say in a very pronounced yet extremely subtle way, 'I am, so be it!'"

Cheng splits his chic group in two: the chic-eccentrics like British designer mentor and muse **Isabella Blow** and Italian Vogue editor in chief **Anna Piaggi**; and the chic-conformists like **Caroline** of Hanover/Monaco, **Catherine Zeta-Jones** and the **Miller** sisters. Then there are the "cool cats," who, according to Cheng, "are usually the ones who cannot afford to be chic."

Defenders

Peter Cheung, deputy director for communications at Sotheby's, says, "To me, someone who is cool is a little standoffish and basically someone who is not too comfortable with himself and basically trying too hard." Cheung sees a chic person as someone having a timeless, classic and elegant sense of style that is effortless. Suaco labels chic the dress code of the establishment. Fashion victims trying to keep up with the latest trends take looks from the shows or magazines too literally thinking they are cool. Young says that these people think they are cool by encompassing the "label mania." Gomez, an advertising executive by day, observes, "In Hollywood, the obvious choice for chic is **Gwyneth Paltrow**. I wouldn't describe her as cool, though. Cold, maybe."

There are some defenders of the cool among the chic. "Chic people often disparage cool but that's only because they know they can never be cool," defends Lam, whom Cheng classifies as chic-eccentric. Cheng thinks that cool is eternal and chic can come with age. He considers Saudi socialite and couture patron **Mouna Al-Ayoub** chic but not cool. "Haute couture and her divorce make her chic." However, Young and Cuthbertson think that chic is forever. "Chic is ageless," says Young, a former stylist. "[It can be] a 20-year-old in a white T-shirt and a pair of beautifully cut linen pants to a 65-year-old Indian woman in a sari." Cuthbertson, who cuts a chic figure at the FT office, thinks that "you can be chic until you die" and that being cool just means "looking sexy rather than anything else."

Can you be (or buy) both?

"For the most part," says Daswani, "I think it's either one or the other, although some famous people are incredibly good at being both like **Julia Roberts**, who takes a cool look like black leather jacket, turtleneck and skinny pants and makes it super chic." Rowntree, who also does publicity for London Fashion Week, agrees, "[It is] very rare to find the two together. **Lucinda Chambers** at British Vogue does both very well. Perhaps **Cate Blanchett** as well."

Okay—so very few can have both. But can you buy at least one? Cheng and Lam, his partner in the crime of being fashionable, agree than money can buy chic. The intrepid Lam says, "If you are fortunate, money can make you chic but it will never make you cool." Cheng says, "You can buy chic but you cannot buy cool." On the other hand, Young believes that money cannot buy elegance. It comes from the individual and his own personal style and attitude. De la Paz thinks the only key to being cool and/or chic is to "toss out all the -isms and not give a damn." He says, "... what you have to be is bitchin' brave."

Like fashion and good taste, this haunting question of being chic and cool, is very subjective. One thing's for sure, according to Yap, "It's cool to be chic and chic to be cool." Now let me just squeeze into this Galliano outfit and pray that I'll look fab...

SILVER Jubilarians (HS '76) headed by Dr. Ricardo Roque with Fr. Paul de Vera, Prior of Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat

GOLDEN Jubilarians (HS '51) headed by lawyer Enrique "Spanky" Perez

HERBERT Bautista (HS '71) and Kris Aquino representing her father, Ninoy Aquino (HS '48)

(SEATED, FROM LEFT) Marichu Arando, Dina Soriano, Mario Soriano, Betsy Tenchavez; (standing) Frank Sityar, Brigs Ong, Victor Luciano, Isauro Cotoco and Bob Tenchavez

RICARDO Roque, Jose Mari Lacson, Fr. Paul de Vera, Manuel Pangilinan, Fr. Bobby Perez and Dr. Jaime Galvez-Tan

BEN Farrales (HS '51) and Mely Ablaza

EDUCATION Secretary Raul Roco and Sonia Roco

Bedans toast San Beda centennial

BEDANS rarely throw lavish parties owing to their Benedictine value of simplicity but they decided to make an exception this year with the Centennial Red and White Ball held recently at the NBC Tent of The Fort in celebration of the 100th year of San Beda College.

In attendance were some of the country's well-known personalities and celebrities who came early and left late to catch up with former classmates and yes, even old rivals.

Proud Bedan Manuel V. Pangilinan, who received a plaque of appreciation for his efforts in making sure the event was a success, credited San Beda College for his strong sense of discipline and his competitive streak, which he said proved to be invaluable later in his life. "At San Beda, we were taught to strive, to seek, to find and not to yield. We were challenged to be the best that we could be. It is this tradition of excellence that has sustained and will continue to sustain Bedans in the years to come."

Education Secretary Raul Roco received a gift from entertainer George Javier who performed that night. "Promise me you will use this during your campaign," Javier said as he gave a laughing Roco an all-leather pair of Filipino-made boots in pastel colors.

GEORGE Javier handing over the shoes promised to Secretary Roco.

Aside from Javier and his colleagues from the "Un4gettables" performing group—Pinky Marquez, Isay Alvarez and Bimbo Cerrudo, also performing that night was Mitch Valdez, who had Bedans doubling with laughter for her comedic antics. Bedan Eugene Villaluz also sang several songs.

Rev. Benigno Benabarre, OSB, San Beda's rector from 1950-1967, flew in from Spain especially for the event. Father Benabarre was famous—or infamous—for his strict disciplinarian ways and for his "Room 13," where, he said, naughty boys were locked up.

Fr. Bobby Perez expressed a wish for alumni. "We have many Bedans who have distinguished themselves to be leaders," he said. "I wish they would continue to fulfill what San Beda has intended for them, to continue growing, to be fully human and wholly Christian."

Hosted by Herbert Bautista, who went to San Beda from first grade until college, and Kris Aquino, whose father Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., is another pride of San Beda, the show ended with a *rigodon de honor* participated in by San Beda—and society's—creme de la creme. Ballroom dancing followed.

San Beda College, now part of Manila's bustling "university belt," has five departments and a graduate school, founded in 1998, which offers a course leading to a master's degree in liturgy, in consortium with the Paul VI Institute of Liturgy in Malaybalay, Bukidnon.

The Centennial Red and White Ball was made possible by the San Beda College Alumni Association, San Beda College Alumni Foundation Inc. and PLDT.

E-groups are fierce campaigners

(From page G1)

Singles for Christ. Arroyo and Villar placed second and third, while the rest of the PPC slate filled the other slots. Yasay placed 13th and the PPC's **Roberto Pagdanganan** was 14th.

'Bobby Dacer' is alive—and rude

DON'T look now, but **Bobby Dacer** is alive. It's not PR man Bubby who was reportedly burned to death. This Bobby is an arrogant receptionist at the Fedex counter at SM Megamall.

A customer went to the Fedex counter to send a package to Singapore. The guy gave her a piece of paper and without looking, told her to fill up the form.

"*Diinan mo ang sulat mo dahil* seven copies '*yan*," he said while pointing to a paper plastered on the board.

When given the paper back, the guy remarked, again without eye contact, "*Kulang pa yan, tignan mo sabi etong papel*," he said and pointed to the paper on the board again.

When told the customer was sending sending only newspapers to Singapore, the guy snapped back, "*Mas mahal 'yan, 'di na* documents '*yan*."

When the sender asked why, the guy retorted, "*Kung ayaw mo, sa iba ka magpadala*."

The sender left and went to the Fax and Parcel office where a courteous woman at the counter attended to her. That was where she found out the Fedex guy was Robert "Bobby" Dacer.

Uncouth TV host

LAST week's "Isyu 101" on ABS-CBN was a rousing *sabong*, with Manila Mayor **Lito Atienza** and his supporters pitted against his rivals in the May 14 elections—former Interior Secretary **Fred Lim**, former Rep. **Amado Bagatsing** and two other men who are also hoping to be mayor but whose names nobody remembers.

The show was a hit, with the candidates hitting one another with insults and insinuations and bald-faced accusations.

But one member of the show who deserves to be hit in the head with a book on manners is uncouth cohost **Sito Beltran**.

Beltran wore his bias like a badge. He was courteous when talking to Atienza, Lim and Bagatsing, but smug and disdainful when he spoke to the two unknown candidates, one of whom said he was a buy-and-sell merchant of used appliances.

"*Ano ba kayo*?" he asked one of the unknown bets, and the disdain in his voice was cutting.

Perhaps "Isyu 101" should think of tackling manners next, and Beltran should be made to listen, and listen very well.

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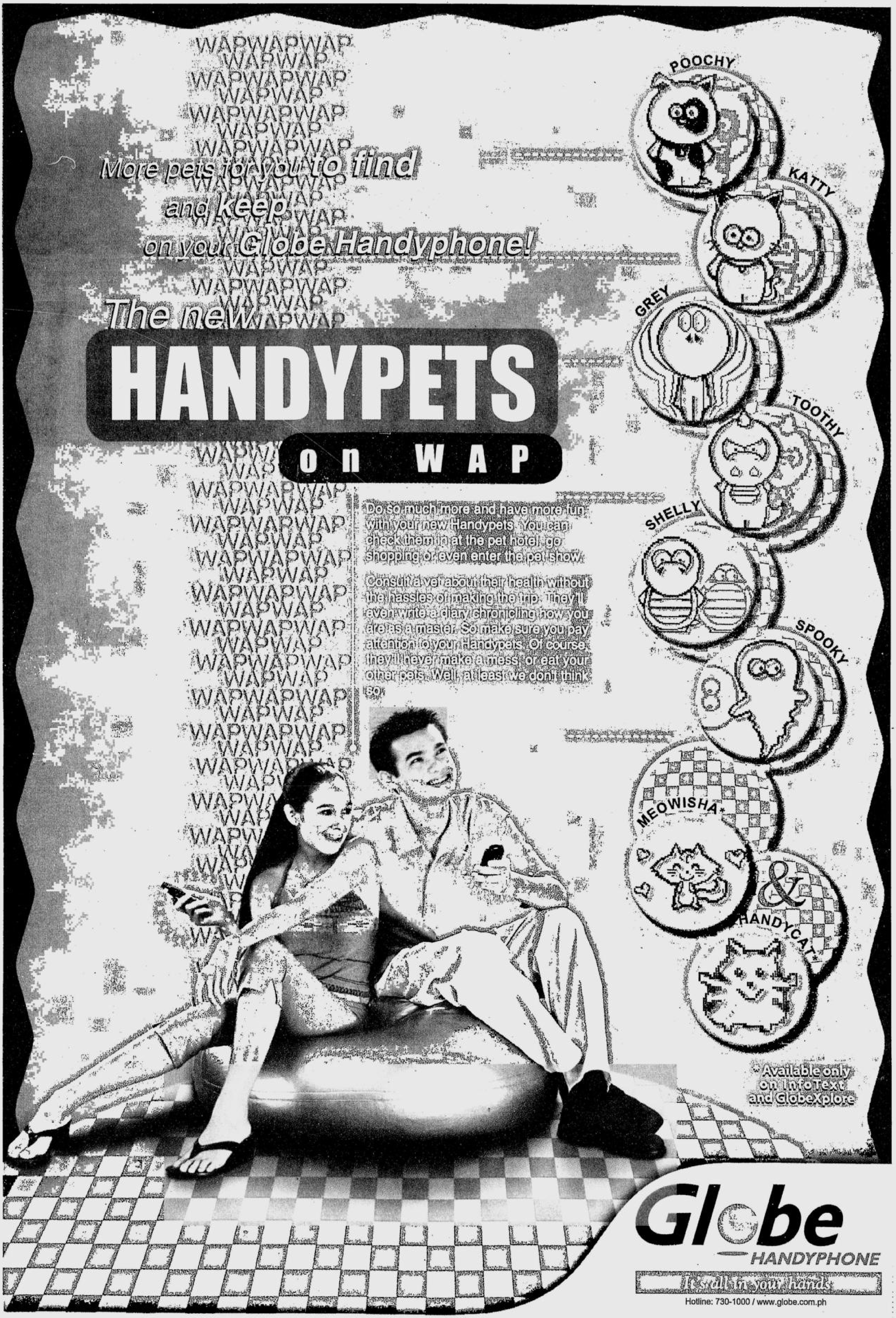

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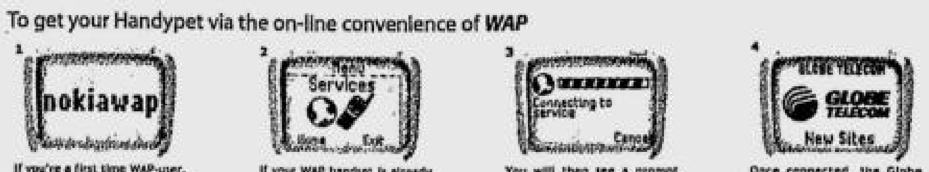

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Job Description

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Required Experience

- Bachelor's degree holder, an MBA degree, a definite advantage;
- Possesses 5-10 years relevant sales and marketing experience in the IT industry managing channel and distribution partners;
- Highly analytical with excellent consulting skills;

Marketing Development Manager (Code: MDM)

Job Description

A Marketing Development Manager positions product lines within the local market and ensures that market share objectives are met. He/she is responsible for creating brand awareness and for coming up with programs that will boost the product sales and market feasibility.

Required Experience

- Bachelor's degree holder, an MBA degree, a definite advantage;
- At least 5-10 years experience in above-related duties, experience within the IT industry would be an advantage;
- Resourceful and creative;
- Possesses excellent presentation and negotiation skills;
- A channel sales background is a definite advantage.

Business Development Manager (Code: BDM)

Job Description

A Business Development Manager will seek, develop and manage market opportunities for an array of HP products and services to HP named accounts. He is expected to develop operation plans, deliver processes and identify new business opportunities. He will focus on development and management of project plans, resources and customer commitments.

Required Experience

- Bachelor's degree holder, an MBA degree, a definite advantage;
- At least 4 years experience in business development or marketing in the IT with considerable technical exposure and market commercial awareness;
- Sound negotiating, sales and project management skills are a must;
- Experience in handling telecommunication accounts, preferred.

Network Specialist (Code: NS)

Job Description

The Network Specialist provides pre sales technical support to the networking business in HP. The candidate will design networks both LAN and WAN, and Data Communication. Plans and designs architectural components and systems integration of network infrastructure. Studies and analyzes the functionality of the platforms to be used in the network/communications design and protocols for existing and proposed systems. Assesses the relevance and suitability of third party equipment and determines the impact and compatibility of hardware and software in the proposed solution, He/she is responsible for the proposal documentation and technical presentation and client interface. He also provides post sales implementation and Project Management support in a post sales capacity.

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- Must possess a College degree relevant to Computers and Networking;
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Senior IT Specialist (Code: SRITS)

Job Description

The Senior IT Specialist will be responsible for IT infrastructure services and will serve as contact point for the HP internal customers. The main responsibilities include data and voice network supports, server management and on-site user support. He/she may provide consultation to the business and work with regional and service providers in coordinating the implementation or roll-out of new products and technologies.

Required Experience

- Bachelor degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering or related courses; a MBA degree is a definite advantage
- Minimum of 5 years working experience in an IT-related environment, prefer in network and telecommunication management
- Project management experience and analytical problem solving skills; knowledge of quality processes is a desired advantage
- Superior service mindset.

Accountant (Code: A1)

Job Description

The Accountant is responsible for ensuring the proper accounting for revenue and/or inventory arising from the sales businesses in all the sectors of a geographic entity; acts as a Hub contact who can provide timely and value-added solutions the front-end countries' users.

Required Experience

- Certified Public Accountant;
- At least 2 years relevant experience, preferably in a multinational environment;
- PC literate, with working experience in a high-tech environment;
- Excellent verbal written and communication skills;
- Strong customer focus

Collection Specialist (Code: CS)

Job Description

The Collection Specialist is responsible for prompt collection of accounts receivables to ensure that asset management metrics are achieved; performs reconciliation of account balances to resolve disputes with customers in order to facilitate collection. He/she prepares and submits timely and accurate A/R aging reports to the businesses; coordinates with the collectors on field and the A/R accountant to ensure that balances are updated and that both invoices and statements of account are dispatched promptly.

Required Experience

- Graduate of a 4-year business degree (accounting degree would be an advantage)
- Minimum of 3 years relevant work experience in credit or accounts receivable management.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Excellent sense of customer orientation.
- Results oriented.

Operations Procurement Staff (Code: OPS)

Job Description

The Operations Procurement Staff is responsible for management of vendor-supplier relationship. He/she will take charge of the country roll-out of all WW, regional and local projects for Operations Procurement and subsequently, act as the project local support; operations procurement performance tracking and reporting; and business controls execution.

Required Experience

- Graduate of a 4-year business degree (accounting degree would be an advantage)
- Minimum of 4 years work experience in operations procurement or any related work experience;
- Strong negotiation and project management skills;
- Analytical, process and controls-oriented.

Interested candidates may send their resumé with 1x1 recent photo to the following:

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Human Resources Department
The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Ltd., Manila Branch
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or e-mail to roy_decena@seaoil.e-mail.ph
for appointment and further inquiries, please contact
722-4871 to 75 or 723-0850

NURSES NEEDED

Via Pacific Placement Service, a California based company, working closely with an experienced U.S. Immigration Lawyer invites nurses:

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TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL

We are a growing International MLM company marketing high quality consumable products. We are sourcing applicants for the position of:

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The candidate should have good people relation skills. Efficient, self-motivated young woman with bright personality who enjoys challenges and is willing to accept increasing responsibilities. Future prospects are excellent.

Help us to grow... and grow with us!

Please send your application letter and resumé with references and contact number to:

CUSTOMER SERVICE
P.O. BOX 1846
Makati Central Post Office
1258 Makati City
or fax to: (02) 810-6352

Attention: The Administrative Manager

KYMCO

Access Road, Multinational Village, Parañaque, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos. (632)-8221052, 822-1053, 822-1052 Fax No. (632)-8221054

Accounting Personnel

1. BS Commerce Major in Accounting
2. 20-25 years old
3. With bookkeeping skills, experience in inventory keeping, recording and reporting, including administration of receivables & payables, and cash management
4. Experience in an auto-servicing company will be an advantage
5. Willing to be assigned in Marikina or Mandaluyong and amenable to long working hours
6. Computer literate and knowledgeable in computerized accounting software
7. Analytical, flexible and with a high sense of responsibility
8. Systematic and organized
9. Can work with minimal supervision

Interested parties should send their detailed resume with latest inexpensive ID picture and copy of their transcript of records to Mr. Gilbert Molina at SC KYMCO Pilipinas, Inc., Access Road, Multinational Village, Parañaque City. Telephone numbers: 822-1056/822-1052 Fax Nos.: 822-1054. You can also email them at sckymco@info.com.ph or gillan@info.com.ph.

British Embassy
Manila

seeks an

ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT

Applicant must be proficient in the English language (both oral and written); Computer literate (MS Word and Excel) including Computerized Accountancy, with 3 years relevant experience within a financial institution. Starting salary is P16,919 monthly rising to P18,567 within a few months and after the training, with annual increments of P824 rising to P26,807 monthly.

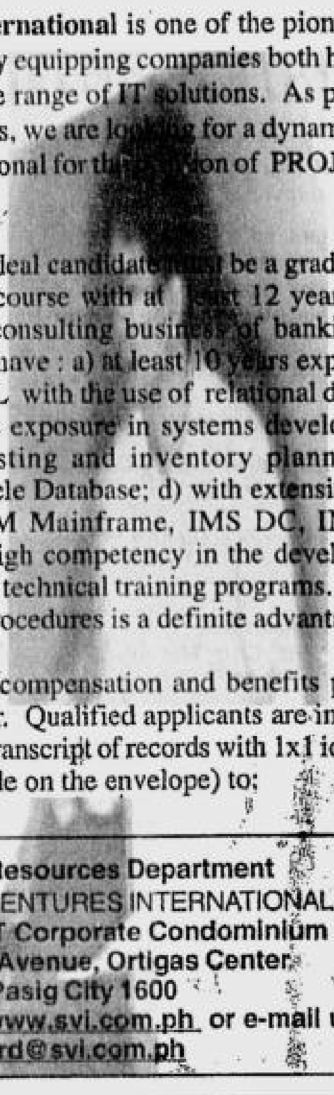
Please submit your curriculum vitaé, 2x2 photograph, copy of Transcript of Records and hand written letter of application addressed to:

Management Officer (AA)
British Embassy
17/F, L V Locsin Building
6752 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1226

Deadline for submission is on **18 April 2001, Wednesday at 12:00 noon.** Only successful applicants will be notified. Enquiries about this vacancy will not be entertained.

Visit us at our website at **www.jobmarketonline.com**

MANAGERIAL



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THE PROFILE. The ideal candidate must be a graduate of any computer related course with at least 12 years work experience in the IT-consulting business of banking and finance. He/She must have : a) at least 10 years experience on MVS CICS/COBOL with the use of relational database DB2; b) has extensive exposure in systems development, warehousing, forecasting and inventory planning; c) knowledgeable in Oracle Database; d) with extensive IBM PC Applications, IBM Mainframe, IMS DC, IMS DB background, and; d) high competency in the development and implementation of technical training programs. To add, familiarity with ISO procedures is a definite advantage.

We offer competitive compensation and benefits package and a rewarding career. Qualified applicants are invited to send their resume and transcript of records with 1x1 id picture (indicate reference code on the envelope) to:

Human Resources Department
SOFTWARE VENTURES INTERNATIONAL
6TH Floor JMT Corporate Condominium
# 27 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City 1600
Apply on-line at: www.svi.com.ph or e-mail us at:
hrd@svi.com.ph

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Is in immediate need to fill the following positions:

DIRECTOR OF RESTAURANTS AND BARS
(expatriate or local)

College graduate, 7 to 10 years extensive experience handling all aspects of food and beverage, promotions and marketing operations and cost control, excellent communication, interpersonal, and leadership skills, computer literate, enthusiastic, ambitious, and proactive. The Holiday Inn's F&B Department comprises of 15 P.O.S. (point of sales), and is being handled by approximately 400 employees.

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE HOUSEKEEPER

With extensive experience in Hotel Housekeeping Operations, Floors and Public Areas, proficient in planning, leading, organizing, and coordinating. With effective leadership, interpersonal, and communication skills, computer literate, enthusiastic, self-starter, and self-motivated.

COST CONTROLLER

College graduate, 5 to 7 years extensive experience in all aspects of food and beverage cost control operations, systems, and analyses, knowledgeable in menu planning/engineering, excellent communication, interpersonal, and leadership skills, highly organized, good decision-making, proactive. We are looking for a top professional who will report directly to the General Manager/Director of Finance and Business Support.

F&B PROMOTIONS MANAGER

College graduate, 3 to 5 years extensive experience in handling food and beverage promotions and marketing, excellent communication qnd interpersonal skills, willing to travel, highly sociable, creative, self-motivated.

BANQUET SALES MANAGER

College graduate, 5 to 7 years supervisory or managerial experience in Banqueting, Sales and Marketing, and F&B promotions, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, computer literate, enthusiastic, pleasant personality, ambitious.

SALES ACCOUNT MANAGERS
(both for Junior or Senior post)

College graduate, 1 to 2 years proven track record in Hotel Room Sales handling travel or corporate accounts and/or Banquet Sales, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, knowledge of any Chinese language is an advantage, computer literate, self-motivated, very resourceful, and proactive.

HR OFFICER

College graduate, extensive experience in recruitment and other related hiring activities, with proven track record in creative recruitment, above average communication and interpersonal skills, people-oriented, self-motivated, highly organized, proactive, and resourceful.

MIS OFFICER

Preferably BS Computer Engineering or Science graduate, proficient in any programming language, Novell Netware, MS Office Application, at least 2 years working experience, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, self-motivated, proactive and self-starter.

Please send your comprehensive resumé and credentials to:

THE PERSONNEL MANAGER
Holiday Inn Manila
Corner Ma. Orosa Street and UN Avenue, Ermita
1000 Manila
E-mail: jm1@inquirer.com.ph
(Subject: HOLIDAY INN)

COST CONTROLLER

Qualifications:

- ✓ Male or Female, 25 years of age and above
- ✓ Graduate of business related courses, preferably accounting
- ✓ Must be computer literate
- ✓ With at least three years experience in a managerial position
- ✓ Two years experience in cost & property control administration
- ✓ With knowledge of cost accounting procedures and be familiar with cost report preparation and analytical techniques
- ✓ Honest and efficient
- ✓ With good communication skills both oral and written

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

Qualifications:

- ✓ Male or Female, 30 years of age and above
- ✓ Must be graduated in a University, major in Accounting
- ✓ Must be CPA
- ✓ Three years experience in the same position, preferably from golf course, hotel or any other service business establishment
- ✓ With string background in location and cost control
- ✓ Computer literate
- ✓ Good communication skills both oral and written

Kindly send resumé at Subic Bay Golf & Country Club; Bldg. 6900, Binictican Drive, Subic Bay Freeport Zone or Unit 2805, 28th floor Summit One Building, 530 Shaw Blvd,, Mandaluyong City.

The COMMUNITY CRAFTS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (CCAP) a Non-Government Organization engaged in Fair Trade that uses Development Marketing as strategy, has immediate need for the following positions:

A. (1) SENIOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

- Graduate of Community/Enterprise Development, Social Work or other related courses with equivalent years of relevant experience;
- Willing to travel to marginalized handicraft producers' communities;
- Highly experienced in program implementation, monitoring and evaluation (PIME);
- Excellent technical writing ability (focus: development issues);
- Ability to engaged partnership programs through workable linkages/networking;
- Excellent health condition (medical certificate required).

B. (2) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

- Graduate of Community/Enterprise Development, Social Work or other related courses in similar capacity;
- Willing to travel to marginalized handicraft producers' communities;
- Background in writing and implementing project proposals;
- Ability to facilitate partnership programs through linkages;
- Excellent health condition (medical certificate required).

Essential qualities:

Dynamic, creative, driven by a sense of purpose and commitment for development work. Computer literate.

Previous applicants need not apply. Qualified applicants should send their CV, cover letter and recent 2x2 photo no later than April 30, 2001 to:

The Administrative Officer
CCAP Building, G. Araneta Avenue
corner Kaliraya Street
Q.C. 1100, Philippines
E-mail: ccapbdd@pacific.net.ph

Tels: 712-21-60 to 69
416-54-51
781-41-92
Fax: (632)712-21-69

For further information about CCAP, please visit
www.philippinefairtrade.com
Only short listed candidates will be notified.

A RURAL DEVELOPMENT NGO

IS IN NEED OF

Program Coordinator

- ○ At least 18 units in MA degree or Bachelor's degree with licensure or relevant trainings & 4 years experience as senior manager/supervisor.
- ○ Familiar with program and project management theories & practices in rural development context.
- ○ Strong administrative & diplomatic skills
- ○ Familiar with fund accessing and fund raising work
- ○ Computer literate and preferably with grassroots experience
- ○ Proficient in written and verbal communication using both English and Filipino
- ○ Willing to go on fieldwork

Project Development and Monitoring Officer

- ○ Graduate of Economics or agribusiness course or any course relevant to livelihood enterprise plus relevant trainings and at least 2 years experience in related work.
- ○ Experienced in cooperative work & livelihood development
- ○ Proficient in written and verbal communication in English and Filipino
- ○ Computer literate
- ○ Willing to go on fieldwork

Research/Information/Documentation Officer

- ○ Graduate of any social science course or any relevant course to rural development research plus relevant trainings and at least two years experience in any related work
- ○ Experience with social science research methodologies and Publication work
- ○ Proficient in written and verbal communication in English & Filipino
- ○ Computer literate especially in data base, stat and desk publication programs
- ○ Willing to go on fieldwork

Agri-extension Worker

- ○ Graduate of Agriculture or any course relevant to agricultural production plus relevant trainings
- ○ At least 2 years experience in related work
- ○ Proficient in written and verbal communication in English & Filipino or any local dialect
- ○ Computer literate
- ○ Familiar with sustainable agriculture concepts & issues; and agro field experiment methods
- ○ Willing to go on fieldwork at least 70% of his/her working time

Community Organizer

- ○ Graduate of Community Development, Social Work, Cooperative or any course relevant to community organizing & training work plus relevant trainings.
- ○ At least 2 years experience in community work
- ○ Proficient in written and verbal communication in English & Filipino or any local dialect
- ○ Computer literate
- ○ Willing to go on fieldwork at 70% of his/her working time

Interested applicants should mail their resumé, photocopy of their transcript of records, and a 1x1 ID picture not later than April 30, 2001 to the Executive Director of CARRD at # 22 Matipid St., Sikatuna Village, Quezon City.

TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL

WANTED

DECK AND ENGINE OFFICERS

CHIEF ENGINEER & SECOND ENGINEER For SUPPLY BOAT

(Philippine & Asean Trade)

Qualifications:

- Marine Engineering Graduate
- Chief Engineer, Second Engineer or Third Engineer License
- Not more than 55 years old
- Complete with Overseas Documents
- At least 3 years on board anchor handling supply tug preferably with EMD and GM Detroit Engines
- With Good Moral Character and References

MASTER for SUPPLY BOAT

(Philippine & Asean Trade)

Qualifications:

- Master License or Chief Mate License
- Not more than 55 years old
- Complete with Overseas Documents
- Minimum 4 years experience in anchor handling and supply tug work
- With Good Moral Character and References

Please apply in person or mail your bio-data (with complete xerox copies of documents) at:

UNITED SALVAGE & TOWAGE PHILS., INC.
2272 President Quirino Avenue, Paco, Manila

PACIFIC GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

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BUSINESS RELATIONS OFFICER

Requirements:

- Female, 25-35 years old
- Graduate of Marketing, Management or any business-related course
- Minimum of 5 years relevant experience
- Has excellent interpersonal, communication and problem solving skills
- Very pleasing personality and good moral character
- Willing to travel and work extra hours

CALL CENTER REPRESENTATIVES

Requirements:

- Female, 20-25 years old
- College graduate, (New graduates of English and Mass Communication are encouraged to apply)
- With pleasing personality & good moral character
- Fluent and has good command of both Filipino and English Languages
- Computer Literate
- Willing to work on shifts

We offer above-industry compensation, generous benefit packages and career leverage through training and development. Qualified and interested applicants are requested to send their resume with recent photo to:
P.O. BOX 13906 Ortigas Center, Pasig City Or E-mail to:
jobs_occ@yahoo.com

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International MLM Company marketing high quality consumable products, requires:

- Qualified sales leaders for corporate position
- To design and implement effective strategies to achieve corporate goals
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- Attractive Salary package

Rush your details in writing or fax to:

Vice President, MLM Corporate Sales
P.O. Box 1846
Makati Central Post Office
Makati City, 1258
Fax No. (02) 810-6352

All communications treated with 100% confidentiality

A leading distributor of lighting fixtures is in need of the following positions:

ACCOUNTANTS

- Female/Male, not more than 30 years old
- Accounting graduate, computer literate
- With 4 to 5 years work experience

STORE SUPERVISORS

- Female, with pleasing personality
- Not more than 30 years old
- Has 3 years work experience

For more details, please contact
telephone numbers 330-2101 / 330-9979
Mondays thru Fridays from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. ONLY.
Email: jm1@inquirer.com.ph
Subject: CU-SOL

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RADIO NETWORK PLANNING & OPTIMIZATION MANAGERS
(Code: M-RPN/RNO)

- At least 5 to 7 years in CMTS technology (AMPS, GSM, CDMA).
- Experience in foreign networks would be an advantage.
- With good supervisory/management skills.
- Aggressive, flexible, dynamic, and with good communication and interpersonal skills.
- Will handle radio network planning and radio network optimization.
- Will also be responsible for capacity, coverage and quality planning.

REVENUE ASSURANCE ANALYST
(Code: M-RAA)

- At least 4 years experience in auditing and/or business risk management.
- Experience in the review and evaluation of systems, internal controls, processes and operations in computerized environment.
- Strong process review, risk and data analysis skills.
- Possesses a good understanding of fixed and/or mobile telecommunications technology including switches, billing systems, activation systems.
- Graduate of B. S. in Business Administration/ Commerce or B. S. Industrial Engineering, and other related courses.
- Certification in Information Systems Auditing or Internal Auditing or Control Self Assessment is preferred.
- Very good in oral and written communication, facilitation and presentation skills.
- Results-oriented, diligent, and committed to the pursuit of excellence.
- Knowledge in PC software applications including spreadsheets, database word processing, and presentation software.

Senior Engineer/ Engineers/ Systems Engineer
(Code CB-E)

- Graduate of Electrical Engineering/Electronics and Communication Engineering/Computer Engineering, preferably licensed if EE/ECE from reputable schools.
- Must be knowledgeable in the installation and testing of transmission systems, particularly cables, ddfs and multiplexers.
- Must have experience in troubleshooting transmission equipment and cable systems and out restoration.
- Must have adequate experience in SDH multiplex systems with basic understanding of DWDM technology.
- Must have at least 18 months experience in an Operations and Maintenance work environment in a 24x7 mode, knowledge in AC/DC power systems, rectifiers, batteries will be an advantage.
- Must be knowledgeable in synchronization and operation of various computer applications such as Word, Excel, Powerpoint, ACAD will be a very big advantage.
- With good communication skills, experience in dealing with other cultures (Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Americans) will be an advantage.
- With driving skills and willing to be assigned in Nasugbu, Batangas.

Interested applicats are requested to submit their Letter of Application and Resume with 2x2 picture: (Please indicate the **Job Code**)

Strategic Staffing Services
3/F Globe Telecom Plaza
Pioneer corner Madison Streets
Mandaluyong City 1552

or E-mail address:
hrg-staffing@globetel.com.ph

Deadline for submission is on April 10, 2001

YOUR PATH TO THE TOP!

Join New York Life Insurance - one of America's largest and top companies in the world with 155 years of financial strength, integrity and success in the life insurance business.

New York Life Insurance (Philippines), Inc. is looking for self-starters with strong leadership attributes to be a part of New York Life's Sales Management Team.

We are looking for:

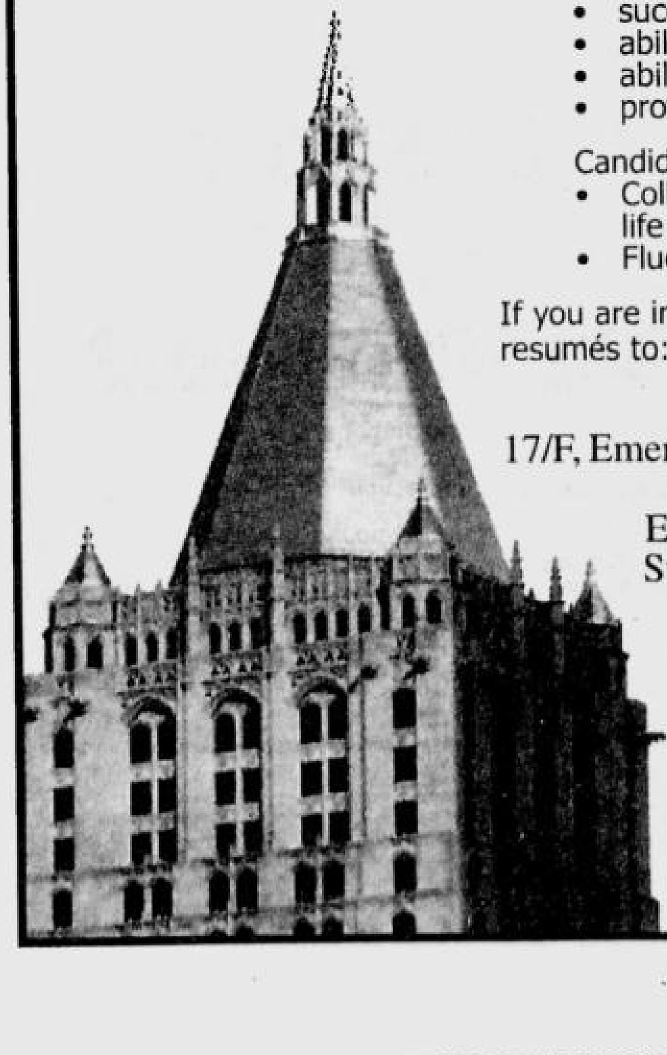
Branch Manager who has
- entrepreneurial skills
- leadership and managerial skills
- strong desire to succeed
- ability to attract competent and productive sales people

Sales Manager who has
- successful track record in sales
- ability to lead
- ability to mentor and coach
- proven recruiting abilities

Candidates must have
- College degree with no previous life insurance experience
- Fluent in English and Tagalog

If you are interested, send your comprehensive resumés to:

Wynsum Corporate Plaza
17/F, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Or Fax to 636-1610
E-mail: jm1@inquirer.com.ph
Subject: MEGA-NEW YORK



NEW YORK LIFE
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UNITY MARKETING CORPORATION

A leader in the supply of refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment parts and supplies is looking for qualified applicants for the position of:

SALES ENGINEERS / EXECUTIVE

He/She will be tasked to assist the Sales & Marketing Manager in achieving set sales targets in line with its current vision and mission. He/She must fulfill the following requirements:

- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Preferably with at least six (6) months experience in sales
- Engineering graduates (preferably Mechanical Engineer from reputable schools
- With knowledge and experience in air-conditioning and refrigeration preferred
- Knowledge of basic computer softwares (i.e. MS Word; Excel)

Compensation will be based upon qualifications. Qualified applicants may also have the opportunity for overseas training.

Interested parties should personally apply and bring their resumé, 2x2 I.D. pictures, transcript of records from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM April 16-18, 2001 only.

Unity Marketing Corporation
950-956 Espeleta Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. Nos. 733-8241 to 52.

MAPP FOUNDATION

(Mutual Assistance For Philippine Professional Foundation)

MEMBERSHIP INVITATION AND JOB TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Date of Inauguration	June 20, 2001
Topic	Japanese Special Technical Terms, Japanese Practices, Customs and Skills
First Term Trainees	**OPEN FOR NURSING PROFESSIONALS** to accommodate 750 students/trainee as per schedule Selected by way of Intermediate exams
Qualifications	below 45 years old Graduates of Nursing or medical schools or colleges
Second Term Trainee	**OPEN FOR CAR & PRECISION MECHANIC** to accommodate 1500 students
Qualifications	Below 45 years old Graduate of College or Vocational Schools
Duration	6-12 months
Schedule	Monday to Friday / Saturday, Sundays & Holidays
Accommodation	50 students per class 15 to 17 classes (Two Shifts)
Third Term Trainees	**OPEN TO VARIOUS TRADE OCCUPATIONS**
After Third Term	**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) for Engineers**
Applicants Orientation Meeting	May 19, 2001, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Philippine International Convention Center CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Deadline for submission of Application	First Term Students - May 21, 2001 Final Selection May 31, 2001

FOR REGISTRATION AND PRE QUALIFICATION SUBMIT OR SEND RESUMÉ 2-2 X2 COLORED PICTURES, DIPLOMA OR CERTIFICATE TO MLA. OFF. ONLY

MLA. OFF.: 3rd Flr., Suite 25 LEGASPI TOWERS 300, Roxas Blvd., cor. VitoCruz, Malate, Mla. Tel. 525-5387, 536-5451, Email: **www.mapp@maap.org.ph**

CAVITE: Don Bosco Executive Vill., Governors Drive, Brgy Cabuco, Trece Martires

(NOTE: ACCEPTANCE OF REGISTRATION WILL START ON APRIL 17, 2001)

THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR:

1 (One) Bookkeeper

Qualifications:

1. Accounting Graduate, 24-33 years old
2. Must be computer literate, preferably knowledgeable in ACCPAC
3. With at least 3 years of bookkeeping experience in a corporate setting

In addition, candidates for the above positions must have the following qualities:

- Hardworking, willing to work extended hours, and with good follow-through and initiative
- Able to fulfill his/her responsibilities within the prescribed time and with minimal supervision
- Honest and meticulous with his/her work
- Able to relate and communicate with other people effectively

Interested applicants may either fax their resumé to 723-1946 or bring their resumé to EMME Group of Companies, 8/F State Finance Center II (beside POEA), Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong, and look for Judy Melitante. For additional information, please call 723-6928. All resumés must be in on or before April 20, Saturday. Interviews will be conducted from April 16-28.

JOSEPH AdG JAVIER

Architects and Interior Designers

PROJECT ARCHITECT
Male/Female, Preferably 24 to 28 years old
Licensed Architect
At least 3 years experience
in detailing and project administration

AUTOCAD ARCHITECT
Male/Female, Preferably 20 to 26 years old
License not necessary
Proficient in AutoCADD14 software
Has at least 1-year experience

JUNIOR ARCHITECT
Male/Female, Preferably 22 to 24 years old
Licensed Architect
Knowledge in AutoCADD Software is a plus
At least 2 years experience
in production and detailing

Send your application letter and comprehensive resume with a recent photo to diazoma@yahoo.com.
Replies will be sent to qualified applicants only.

GOYA, INC.

Manufacturer of Confectionery Products

is in urgent need of a

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- Male or Female, not more than 25 year old
- Must be Accounting graduate
- With or without experience
- Computer literate
- With above-average scholastic record
- Good in oral and written communication skills
- With good moral character

Interested applicants are requested to send their application letter, comprehensive resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 ID picture to:

Goya, Inc.
c/o Recruitment
No. 23 M. Tuazon Street, Parang
Marikina City
Email: jm1@inquirer.com.ph
Subject: Goya

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SUNDAY

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INQUIRER

MAGAZINE

April 8, 2001
Volume 14 No. 5

Zeneida Quezon-Avanceña

Lessons in Peace

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The Cover Image Carrying on a grand family tradition, Zeneida Quezon Avanceña has been an instrument for peace for most of her 80 years. *Photograph by Mandy Navasero*

Fire Trees

You love me with eyes
warmer than these flaming trees.
In the orange heat
of setting sun,
the chirp of crickets,
a flutter of wings
join the sounds of summer's end.
Leaves, browned and dry
as earth, are breaking away
from their branches,
like the sound of notepaper
folded impatiently
into boats;
a clock in the kitchen
ticks the hours till they set sail.
And the world glides slowly by.
Only the fire trees
are perfectly still
this late afternoon,
bare branches stretched out
against a darkening sky.
Teach me, Lord, to love you
with the silence of fire trees
waiting for rain.

Jeneen Garcia

Talinghaga ng Hamog

Iniluwa ng kulapa ng bundok.
Pakpak ng kalapati.
Palusong kung lumipad.
Hanap ang sariling kaibuturan.
Sanktuwaryo ang kalupaan.
Pandilig ang pawis na niyari ng lamig.
Habang ang paghikab at pag-inat
Ng misteryo ng gubat
Pinakikilig ang sapot na lambat.
Gabay ang hangin
sa mahinahong paglayag.
Sitsit ng kuliglig
Kurap ng alitaptap
Mailap na pagdapo
Ng kalmot ng tuko
Kasabay ang huni ng puyat na kulisap
Pikit-dilat ang kutob ng yabag.
Betlehem ang tuktok ng bundok.
Anghel ang sinukuang hamog.
Tikatik ng lata ng kape ang signos.
Singhap ng hininga
ang di maubos na pangmumog.
Talahib na dampang binuo ng haraya.
Pasan ang krus na may gatilyo at tainga.

Rommel B. Rodriguez

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine is accepting contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed a copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <sim@inquirer.com.ph>

Sunday Inquirer Magazine April 8, 2001
Vol. 14 No. 5 ISSN 0116 - 232X

Editor in Chief	Alya B. Honasan
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THE SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE holds office at Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, with telephone number 897-8808. locals 317 and 318. Mailing address: PO Box 2050, 1099 Manila, Philippines. E-mail: sim@inquirer.com.ph

Features

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The Cover Image Carrying on a grand family tradition, Zeneida Quezon Avancena has been an instrument for peace for most of her 80 years. *Photograph by Mandy Navasero*

Fire Trees

You love me with eyes
warmer than these flaming trees.
In the orange heat
of setting sun,
the chirp of crickets,
a flutter of wings
join the sounds of summer's end.
Leaves, browned and dry
as earth, are breaking away
from their branches,
like the sound of notepaper
folded impatiently
into boats;
a clock in the kitchen
ticks the hours till they set sail.
And the world glides slowly by.
Only the fire trees
are perfectly still
this late afternoon,
bare branches stretched out
against a darkening sky.
Teach me, Lord, to love you
with the silence of fire trees
waiting for rain.

Jeneen Garcia

Talinghaga ng Hamog

Iniluwa ng kulapa ng bundok.
Pakpak ng kalapati.
Palusong kung lumipad.
Hanap ang sariling kaibuturan.
Sanktuwaryo ang kalupaan.
Pandilig ang pawis na niyari ng lamig.
Habang ang paghikab at pag-inat
Ng misteryo ng gubat
Pinakikilig ang sapot na lambat.
Gabay ang hangin
sa mahinahong paglayag.
Sitsit ng kuliglig
Kurap ng alitaptap
Mailap na pagdapo
Ng kalmot ng tuko
Kasabay ang huni ng puyat na kulisap
Pikit-dilat ang kutob ng yabag.
Betlehem ang tuktok ng bundok.
Anghel ang sinukuang hamog.
Tikatik ng lata ng kape ang signos.
Singhap ng hininga
ang di maubos na pangmumog.
Talahib na dampang binuo ng haraya.
Pasan ang krus na may gatilyo at tainga.

Rommel B. Rodriguez

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine is accepting contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed a copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <sim@inquirer.com.ph>

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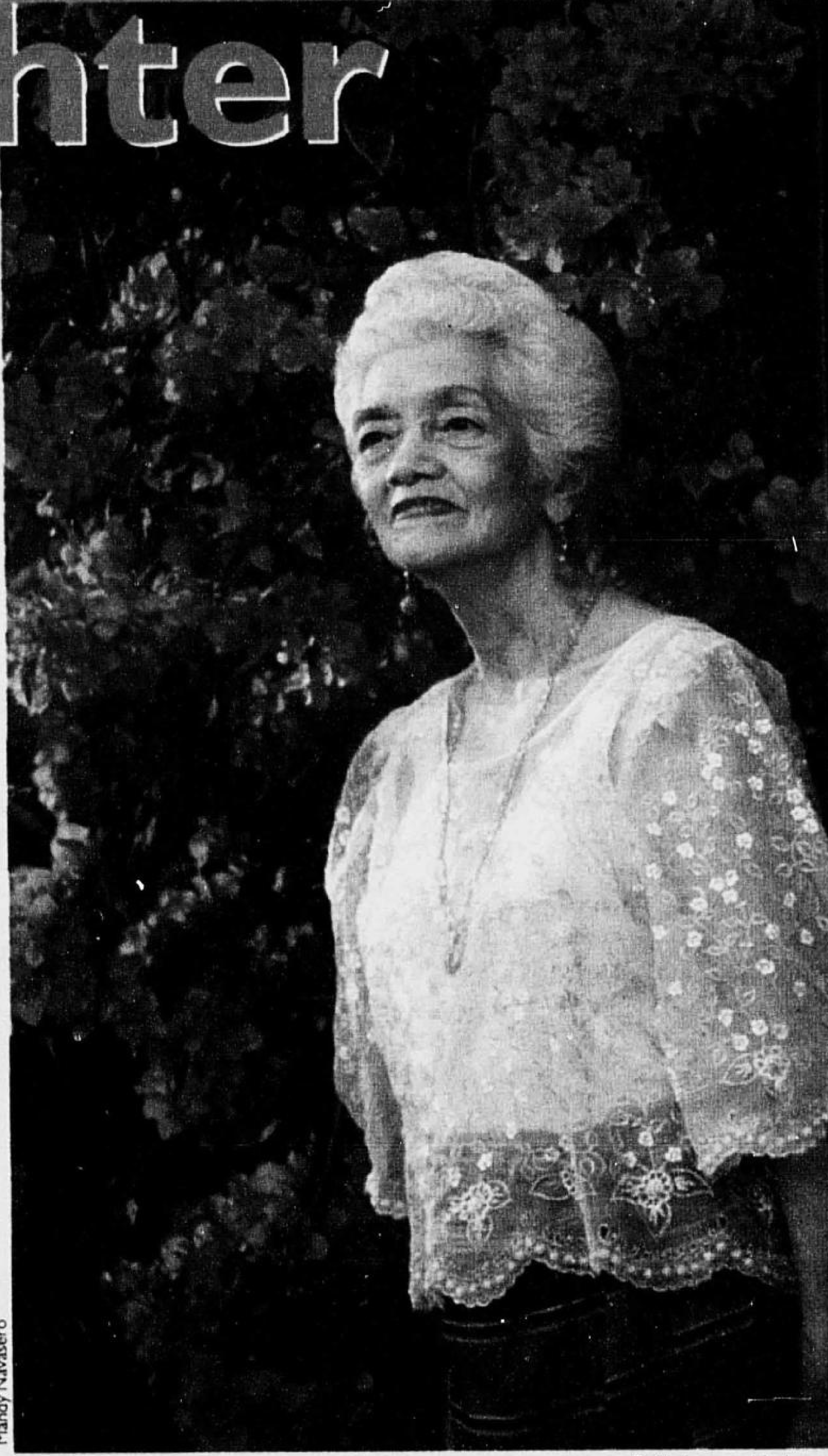
by Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

Twice widowed, mother of nine children, survivor of tragedies and tyrannies, mother of many causes, zealous nationalist, street activist and Presidential daughter Zeneida Quezon Avanceña continues to pursue causes for the country, among them the fight against TB. On the eve of her 80th birthday, she shares her life and memories

Her Father's Daughter


Mandy Navasero

Faith has enabled Nini to live a life of healing

"EVERYBODY SEEMS TO BE YOUNGER THAN I AM," SHE REMARKED RECENTLY AS SHE SURVEYED THE CROWD AROUND HER. "I DON'T SEE ANYBODY OLDER." SHE CHUCKLED, AMUSED BUT NOT AMAZED ON FINDING HERSELF AMONG PEOPLE WHO ARE YOUNGER, ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY MORE ACTIVE, THAN SHE IS. FOR SHE IS DRAWN TO ACTIVITIES THAT PEOPLE HER AGE, OF HER PEDIGREE AND SOCIAL STATUS ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE IN.

And what would these activities be? Rallies, signature campaigns, international conventions, fund raising, field trips, fact-finding missions, human rights advocacy, development work, health campaigns – name it. She lends her body and soul to it, as long as it is for the country. She has a legacy to live out. After all, this woman bears an illustrious name that is inextricably woven into Philippine history.

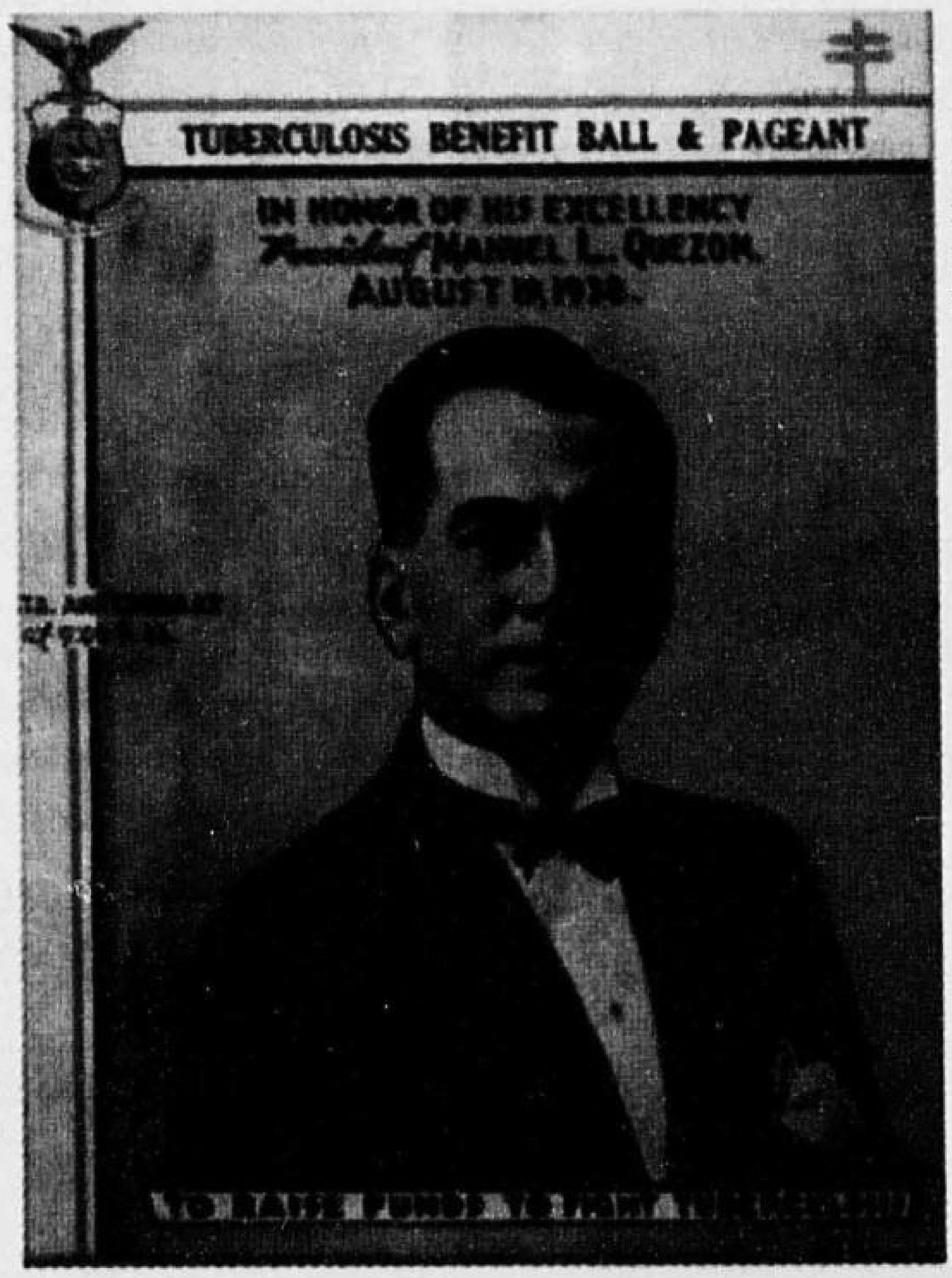
Zeneida Quezon-Avanceña turns 80 tomorrow, April 9, Araw ng Kagitingan (Day of Valor), the 49th anniversary of the Fall of Bataan. Reaching this age does not mean turning her back on the many projects she has been part of. Who says turning 80 means gazing languidly into the beyond? Not for this gracious and feisty woman who has a meaningful past life to look back on. To her, the present constantly beckons and is crying out to be lived actively and well.

Nini to her family and friends, this only surviving daughter of the late President Manuel L. Quezon and Aurora Aragon has many more "miles to go." Her involvements reveal a lot about her. Last year, she was one of the convenors of the Erap Resign Movement. She took to the streets to protest corruption in high places. People Power 1986 and 2001 – she was there.

During the martial law years she was in the anti-Marcos struggle. She was one of the founders of the Citizens Organization for Political Detainees, she was on the board of the Philippine Union for Human Rights and the Ecumenical Commission for Displaced Families and Communities. She co-founded the Concerned Women of the Philippines and the Aurora Aragon Quezon Peace Foundation, named after her mother, who was killed in an ambush in 1949. The Marcos dictatorship did not faze her. She looked the tyrant in the eye and did not blink.

She even had time for the Girl Scouts and the Red Cross from which she received a Silver Humanitarian Cross. She sits in the board of the Jose W. Diokno Foundation, the Lorenzo Tañada Foundation, the Maria Aurora Quezon Foundation named after her elder sister (Baby) who was killed with her mother, the Mother Rosa Foundation (of the Assumption College where she went for high school) and the Corregidor Foundation. She is also with the Alay Buhay Center for Development and the Demokrasya, Ipagtanggol ang Konstitusyon. These days she is fundraising for Bayan Muna, a party-list contender for Congress.

She's not about to slow down. The only thing that stopped Nini for a while was hip replacement surgery.


TUBERCULOSIS BENEFIT BALL & PAGEANT
IN HONOR OF HIS EXCELLENCY
MANUEL L. QUEZON
AUGUST 19,1938.

Flyer for anti-tuberculosis ball held at the Sta. Ana Cabaret on August 19, 1938

But one of the causes dearest to Nini's heart is the campaign against tuberculosis, the disease that claimed her father's life. Nini chairs the Philippine Tuberculosis Society (PTS) founded in 1910 to fight the disease that devastates the lives of many poor Filipinos. PTS runs outreach projects and operates the Quezon Institute, the landmark which recently underwent renovation and upgrading. Few people realize, she says, that the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office was founded to help support PTS and QI.

PTS is even more vigilant now because of the upsurge in TB cases here and all over the world. The old scourge is again rearing its ugly head and this time it is even more vicious and, in some cases, drug-resistant. Nini was the co-convenor of the conference of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease held in Manila last month.

When asked to speak about her father's battle with TB, Nini does so willingly. With her recollections, she gives a human face to the disease that stalked the country during one of the dark chapters in its history. Nini revisits that era and remembers not only the sweeping historical scenario but the details of everyday life as well.

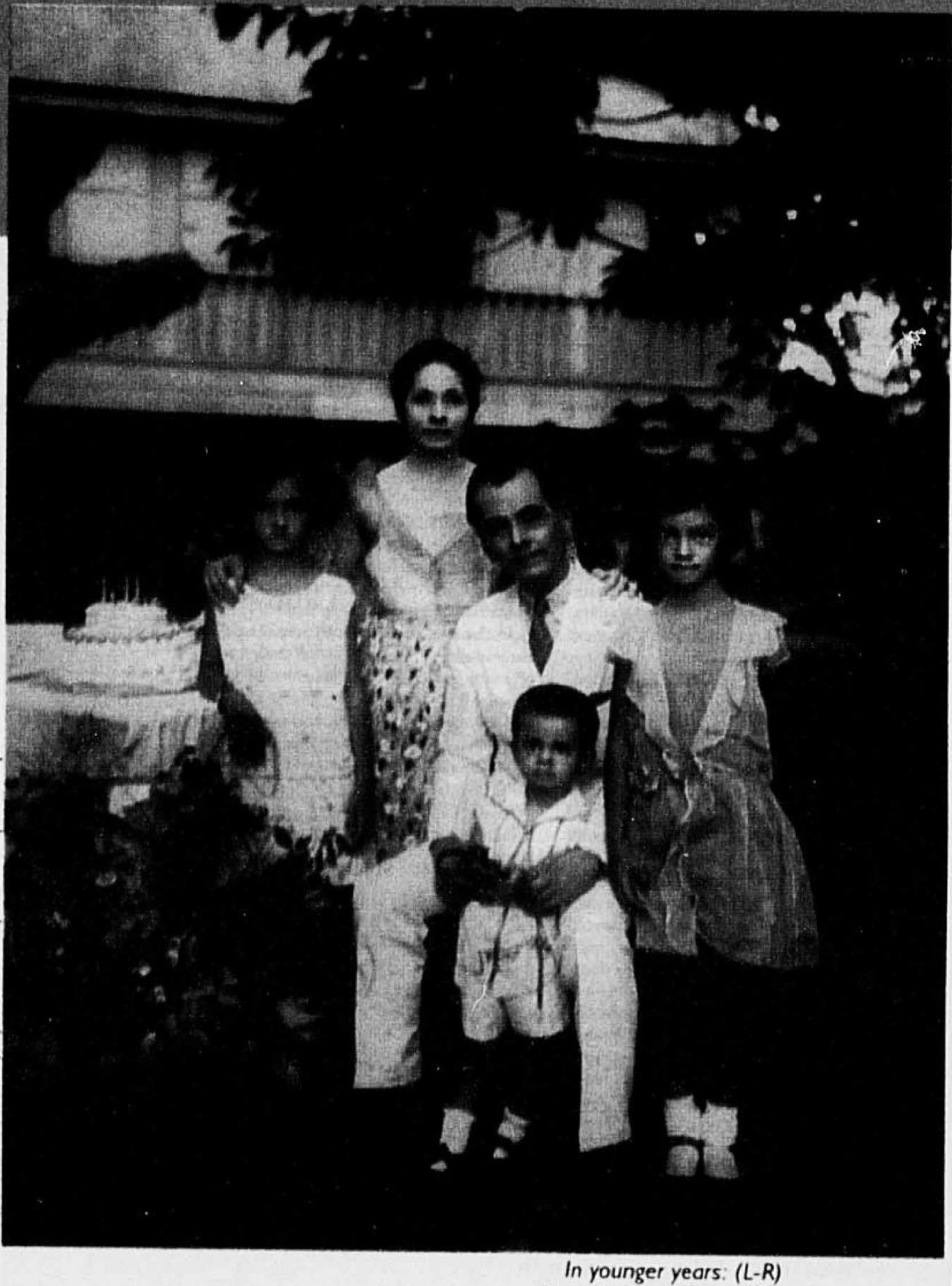
Quezon, the Philippines' first president, had put up a brave fight against the dreaded disease that claimed the lives of princes and paupers, poets and scientists, saints and sinners. A battle was raging inside his body while around him a war was driving his country to its knees. Alas, Nini says, her father succumbed before a potent cure was finally discovered and before he could see his country rise from the ashes. He died abroad in 1944, away from his homeland occupied by foreign invaders.

Quezon married Aurora Aragon in 1918. He was senate president at that time. When Congress was abolished in 1935, Quezon became the president of the commonwealth government. It must have been in 1927 when Nini was six years old that she learned about her father's condition. "Dad was in the US and my mother and the three of us, Baby (Aurora), myself and Nonong (Manuel Jr.) were in Manila. We received a telegram from Dad saying that he had TB. There was no special cure for it at that time except bed rest and good food. Dad said he was going to Pottinger Institute, a sanatorium in Monrovia, California."

Mrs. Quezon went to the US and left her children in the care of an aunt. "But twice, we joined my father there," Nini recalls. "Then he had a relapse in 1940 before the war broke out. His TB was active again so the doctors advised him to leave Malacañang and rest." Although Sergio Osmeña was the vice president, it was Jorge Vargas who acted as caretaker. Quezon stayed in a house owned by Doña Magdalena Ysmael Hemady in Quezon City (already so named at that time).

Towards the end of 1941, amidst rumors of war, Quezon's health took a dive. Nini remembers: "Dad gave a talk at the UP and when he got home, he was running a fever. So he was advised to rest in Baguio. I was then taking post graduate courses at the University of Santo Tomas (where she finished A.B. English, *summa cum laude*) but I had to go with Dad. My mother, sister and brother were in Pampanga that time."

Nini and her father were in Baguio when news on the bombing of Pearl Harbor came. That same day, Dec. 8, 1941, Camp John Hay was attacked by Japanese planes. The sick president and his daughter had to be transferred to an American officer's home. They left Baguio for Manila at night with their cars' headlights turned off. The Quezons did not go back to Malacañang and instead stayed in their home in Quezon City (near Loyola Heights). Air raid shelters were built there. "Dad would have cabinet meetings there every day, sometimes under a huge mango tree. Then he received a telegram from Pres. Franklin Roosevelt asking him to go to the US. Gen. Douglas MacArthur told Dad he was moving his headquarters to Corregidor and he wanted my father there."



Reprinted from "Kasaysayan: The Story of the Filipino People"

In younger years: (L-R) Baby, Aurora, Manuel Sr., Nonong and Nini Quezon

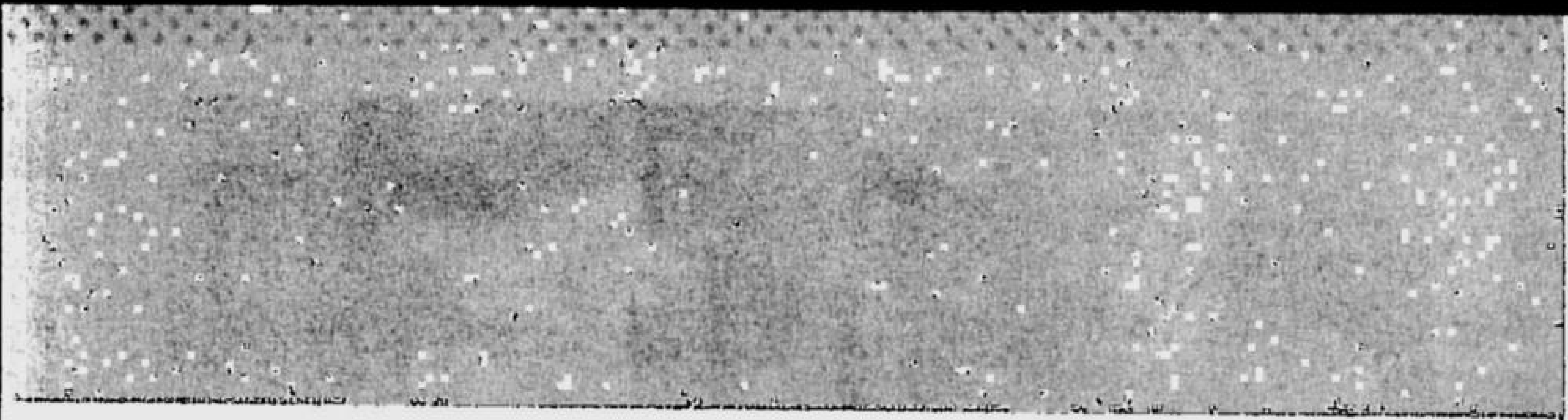
MLQ and family, Nonong (third from right), Baby, Nini (behind bed) and Aurora A. Quezon (holding Quezon's hand) a few months before his death in the USA

On Christmas Eve of 1941, the Quezons dropped by Malacañang to pick up some things then proceeded to a waiting sea craft that took them to Corregidor Island. The Malinta tunnel there was to be their home for two months. "My father had claustrophobia and had coughing fits so a tent was set up outside where he could breathe fresh air. On Feb. 19, my mother's birthday, we left for San Jose, Antique. It was extremely hot inside the submarine. My father had difficulty breathing; they had to give him oxygen. An American general met us in Antique and drove us to Villa Beach in Iloilo. After two months in the tunnel we had our first good meal there. We stayed in the house of the Lopezes."

The strain of travel worsened Quezon's condition. "Our next stop was Negros, where my father had a fever for one week. From Australia, MacArthur contacted my father. We rode a PT Boat that took us to Oroquieta, then we proceeded to Del Monte. After a few days we flew to Australia. My father was in one plane and Vice President Osmeña was in another, you know, just in case. It was a bad trip for Papa. We landed in Alice Springs, in the middle of a desert."

Nini explains that MacArthur, commander of the US forces in the Far East, believed the war ships he needed would be sent to Australia. Alas, the US chose to first focus on Europe. "When Bataan fell on April 9, 1942, my 21st birthday, we were in Melbourne. But you know, Bataan held out longer than the other places in Asia."

Nini continues: "Roosevelt wanted Dad to set up a government in exile in the US. MacArthur said, if the Japanese took my father, the country would be demoralized." The Japanese set up a puppet government and installed Jose Laurel Sr. as president. "We were in the high seas, sailing towards San Francisco aboard a luxury liner es-



corted by a destroyer when Corregidor fell on May 6. A few days after we arrived, we took a train to Washington DC. President Roosevelt was at the station to meet Dad."

For winter, Quezon went to sunny Florida. Baby studied in the Catholic University of America while Nonong attended Georgetown. The Quezons also spent some time in Ashville, North Carolina. "In Miami, my father said to my mother, 'You know, Aurora, I think I will never see the Philippines again.'"

In the summer of 1943, Quezon was moved to Lake Saranac, New York. "He wanted to be at Nonong's graduation," Nini says, "but he was really very ill. A week before he died, he had hemoptysis, he threw up blood." Nini still remembers her father's two doctors, both surnamed Hayes. One of them would later visit the Philippines.

Quezon was dying. Presidential chaplain Jesuit Fr. Pacifico Ortiz (later Ateneo University president and Constitutional Convention delegate) was with the Quezons in New York. "We were at Mass in the chapel when Dr. Trepp called my mother. Dad had another hemoptysis. Fr. Ortiz gave him the last sacraments. Dad was unconscious for around 15 minutes and then he stopped breathing."

Quezon died on Aug. 1, 1944. He would have been 66 on Aug. 19. His body was brought to Washington DC by special train and he lay in state at St. Matthew's Cathedral. He was given a state funeral. He was on a caisson followed by a riderless horse. He was brought to Arlington Cemetery, where he was placed in the memorial hall for those who died in the sinking of the Maine in World War I.

The Quezon family came back in Nov. 1945. Quezon's remains came later, in July 1946, aboard a US Navy ship. They were brought to Malacañang, the Senate, UST and then the North Cemetery. In 1978, his bones were transferred to the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City.

Nini married Felipe Buencamino III in 1947. She was pregnant with their second child when her mother Aurora, her sister and her husband were killed in an ambush by communist guerrillas (the Huks) in Bongabong, Nueva Ecija on April 28, 1949. In all, there were 12 dead and 15 survivors, three of whom were wounded.

It was said that Mrs. Quezon was the last person the Huks would kill. She called them her "beloved people." When Nini worried about her mother's trips to Huklandia, Mrs. Quezon would say, "*Hija*, who would want to do me harm?" It was later established that the attack was premeditated.

"When I talk about it," Nini told the INQUIRER some years ago, "it is not as a memory, I'm living through it again. Daddy's death is now a memory but not theirs. I can't tell you how it felt when I saw the three coffins." She was speaking then on the subject of peace, and the Aurora A. Quezon Peace Awards. "It took time for me to realize they were gone. I would sometimes find myself waiting for Phil, running up that stairway to our room. I'd dream of him every night. I think this is what happens to those whose loved ones are missing.

"I was very dependent on Baby. Dad would ask my mother, 'Aurora, *como es posible* that we would have a daughter with an inferiority complex?'" Nini laughs at it now. "Baby always said, we should be brave. When Daddy died she said, 'Let's show these Americans that Filipinos are brave.' I held back my tears."

A few years after the death of her husband Phil, Nini married Alberto Avanceña, a lawyer. Together, they raised nine children – Felipe Jr. and Jose Antonio Buencamino, Alberto Jr., Manuel, Benjamin, Ma. Aurora, Gabriel, Enrique and Emilio. She had wanted a dozen. "I have nine children and only 10 grandchildren," Nini complains.

How you must hate them, some would ask Nini, referring to her family's killers. She reflects: "It never occurred to me to be bitter and angry at those people. I thank God for the faith that helped me through. If I didn't hate them then, why should I hate them now?"

Nini turns the bad times into good and from the depth and the dark, she draws out the best she could offer to the world. From her experience of her father's sickness and pain, she finds strength to seek healing for others. From violence and death, she draws lessons on peace, on justice. And spreads them. At 80, Nini has so much life and laughter in her.

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In Memoriam

by Nonon Padilla

A colleague and long-time friend remembers the late director, actor and writer Pio de Castro, and his great zeal for art and life

The Passions of Pio

I'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT PIO'S MYSTERIOUS DEATH. PIO'S ILLNESS BEGAN WITH KIDNEY STONES, WHICH THE DOCTOR TRIED TO BLAST. BUT THEY KEPT GROWING BACK UNTIL ONE GREW TO THE SIZE OF A GOLF BALL, AND HE HAD TO UNDERGO SURGERY.

While recuperating, I baked him a chocolate cake, brought it to Manila Doctors Hospital and told him: "This is for you to look at, and for Joy to consume." That was when Pio de Castro died.

Pio was a very good friend, a dear friend. He came into our life in Peta when he came back from the States with a masters' degree in film. That was 30 years ago.

Peta was a busy factory then. Cecile Guidote had not yet shifted to politics, and we were churning out productions like there was no tomorrow. He was brought in by Cecilia Bulaong, CB, whom he was in love with. Pio was a Chekhovian character who never declared himself outright. He was *suabe* with girls. He presented himself as their listening chum, their soulmate, the one who can keep one's secrets, the trusted geek. But you easily got his drift.

Before he settled on Joy, he was in love with Peanuts Pañares, Wanda Medina and a few others. Joy had Spanky Manikan then, or at least they were what you would call "an item." Besides, Joy then was too busy planning her escape from their Baclaran home to join the circus as the girl Friday and factotum of Rolf Scharre, the German mime artist who conducted a mime workshop in Peta.

Pio and Joy hit it off when Brooks Jones, a visiting American director, cast them in a silly musical, "The Last Days of Isaac," played in, of all places, the torture chamber of Fort Santiago. I think it happened during the scene when Joy had to strip. Of course in those pre-Anton Juan nudity days, under the watchful eyes of the mother superior, Miz Guidote, Joy demurely took off her dress (or blouse) to reveal her lily white T-shirt. Joy was a wisp of a girl, as thin as a *tingting*, and when Pio set eyes on her scrawny silhouette, he made a decision for life. Joy was it, and he said to himself: "This one I will fatten up."

Wedding bells didn't come so quickly.

Martial law was declared, and Ms. Guidote's children's party ended. Overnight, everyone grew up. And all moved on. Pio concentrated on making commercials for Image Films in LVN. And Joy started a professional career in tourism.

In those days, Pio was the classic, New Age creature straight out of Haight Ashbury's flower people generation. He always wore denims with a red kerchief around his neck or around his head. His hairline was receding but he still had hair then. He was like Willie Nelson, except that he could barely carry a tune. What he always carried, tucked behind him on the left side pocket of his *maong*, was a pocketbook. He was a voracious reader. He read novels, anthologies, philosophies, essays, manuals, poetry. He read the classics, he read trash. He would read Krishnamurti, then dive into the Dead Sea Scrolls. If there was one way to catch his attention one simply had to quote from T.S. Elliot's "Wasteland" or "The Four Quartets," and you had him animated and conversing, wound up with energy, worse than Jimi Hendrix or anyone on amphetamines.

His grand passion, after Joy, was the theater. Making movies was his profession but there was nothing like his love for the theater. Like a typical Taurean, he was bullheaded and gung-ho in developing a repertory theater company. He was one of the founders of Tanghalang Pilipino and sat on the board until illness forced him to withdraw. He directed Boy Noriega's *"Bituing Marikit,"* after having directed his movie, *"Soltero,"* also written by Boy. He wrote reviews, good, bad and scathing, always true to himself in calling a spade a spade. He wrote to propagate, he wrote to interest his readers to come to the theater to see for themselves the magic that he dearly loved. But he was first and foremost a performer, and was happiest stepping onto the boards.

Pio and Joy's engagement photo taken in November 1977. They were married on January 15, 1978

Pio with his niece Mia, photographed in November 1988, nine months after his first stroke

Even after his first stroke, when half of his body became paralyzed, I cast him in my parody of Nick Joaquin's "Portrait" as Bitoy Camacho and in Gorky's "Lower Depths" (*Lusak*). Pio was a never-say-die kind of guy. However difficult it was physically, he moved heaven and earth to be in the theater to rehearse and perform.

His biggest acting job, the hit of the first Third World Theater Festival, was Peta's *"Alamang,"* directed by Duk Hyung Yoo, a Korean director. He played a poet struggling with himself in the form of three shadows, played by three Chinese kung-fu champions. CB, Joy and I provided on the side the voices of the shadows, like the three witches in "Macbeth." We chanted and gurgled our lines like Tibetan monks, screeched and gimbled like Peking Opera singers. At the end of the day, it was wonderful theater, and Pio was the star, playing it as a Confucian Macbeth stumbling onto a realization about the transience of life, brief as a haiku.

Pio played the role of Kristo in Brooks Jones' production of *"Kalbaryo,"* a street happening originally played by Edru Abraham. Peta kept replaying *"Kalbaryo"* every Holy Week, and Pio gladly took to the streets every Good Friday.

Pio did *"Kalbaryo"* for five or six consecutive years until the kidney stones appeared.

Of course, his voracious appetite for good food took its toll on him. He just couldn't resist eating. Many a time, when Joy was not around, he would order *lechon kawali* and *sinigang na baboy* with *bagoong*, at the buffeteria in between shows at the CCP. He loved hamburgers. He loved Angus steaks. Pio was a *bon vibant*.

These series of non-sequiturs lead me to my guilt. I confess, after his third stroke, I never had the courage to visit Pio when he lay comatose for seven long years, visited only by a few spiritual friends like Gilda Cordero-Fernando.

Joy tried an endless number of times to coax me into visiting Pio, but the thought that I would not be able to hear his voice, that he wouldn't be able to converse always prompted me to say a prayer and push the thought away. The horror would overwhelm me into cowardice. In one of our many conversations, we once discussed

To page 19

bage disposal. The province held a Waste Management Summit and created a Task Force on Waste Management to lessen the volume of garbage.

Health: A Priority

Health being one of its main priority, the provincial government makes it sure that a high quality health service is being rendered to its constituents.

Recently, the province built a three-storey building for the Provincial Hospital. It has service wards for maternity and surgery; an operating room; and consultation rooms for pediatrics, medicine, OB, and surgery. In addition, seven district hospitals are currently being rehabilitated and upgraded to serve the Bulakenos better.

Empowering the Bulakenos

THE PROVINCIAL government encourages initiatives among Bulakeño by empowering them to pursue various projects.

Last year, the Sikap-Angat Project, a livelihood assistance program of women's organizations was launched to 14 municipalities in the province. The local government also expanded the Women Center by creating the Bulacan Quick Response Team Command that will lend emergency assistance to abused women and youth.

Gov. Josie likewise launched *"Sa Iyong Pag-iisa, May Kaagapay Ka,"* a program assisting the widows and single mothers. This comes in the form of health insurance, livelihood, and scholarships for the children. The provincial government has so far granted scholarships to 63 of these children.

On the other hand, some daycare workers were given scholarship while more than a thousand of them were given trainings as part of the Early Childhood Care & Development Program. A total of 18,466 volunteers has likewise received insurance and death assistance.

The blood-letting program, *"Dugong Mula sa 'Yo, Buhay ang Handog Mo"* spearheaded by Vice Gov. Rely Plamenco, was also a success with 2,430 volunteers and 2,414 beneficiaries. In terms of legal aid, public attorneys rendered free legal assistance to 353 families.

The local government also bought *new rescue equipment and kits* to be able to respond quickly to emergency situations.

Building the Youth's Future

BELIEVING that the province's continued success in the future lies in today's young people, Gov. Josie has been undertaking programs to make the youth more competitive in terms of education and skills development.

Last year alone, the local government distributed 279 computer units to 61 public high schools and 92 units to 23 public elementary schools.

Different scholarship program of the government likewise benefitted 607 public school teachers and more than a thousand of poor but deserving students.

On the other hand, tertiary schools like Bulacan Polytechnic College and Bulacan State University were expanded to accommodate more students and at the same time, advance the quality of education.

Last year, the provincial government opened the Education Assessment Conference Workshop. It aimed to enhance the quality of education for 500,000 students in math, science, and English in both elementary and secondary schools.

Meanwhile, a mobile van, aptly called Cyber Van, was commisioned by the local government to bring technology education to the barangays using three computer units, a TV, and VHS player. The van brings to realization the project Cyberskwela, which offers non-formal education for out-of-school youth aged 15 to 20.

With proper training and exposure, Bulacan is assuring a productive and large reservoir of manpower in the years to come.

Employment: More Available to the People

THROUGH the Public Employment Service Office (PESO), the provincial government was able to help some 7,237 youth to find employment here in the country and some 200 in abroad. On the other hand, about 4,000 students were given summer jobs through the Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES) and the Work Application Program (WAP).

Meanwhile, a total of 22,240 youths underwent skills training in their respective barangays.

Top-Caliber Sports Athletes & Programs

ONE FIELD that the Bulakenos are known to excel is through sports as evidence of their triumphs in various national and international competitions.

Recently, the Bulacan Softball Team gained worldwide fame for placing second in the World Cup Series held in Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA. At Central Luzon Regional Athletic Association (CLRAA) Meet in 1991-1993 and 1995-2000, Bulacan took the over-all championship honors. Fourteen of the 17 delegates brought home medals during the "Batang Pinoy" sports fest. And of the 30 athletes, 27 figured in the medal tally during the "Palaro ng Bayan".

Culture & Tradition: Rich and Famous

BULACAN is undoubtedly rich and famous for its culture and tradition. Year after year, festivities such as the awarding of outstanding Bulakenos in the *Gawad Dangal ng Lipi* and the celebration of the *Singkaban Festival* showcasing the Bulakenos' artistry are eagerly awaited by everyone.

Visiting students numbering about 3,000 are shown the cultural beauty and diversity of the province via the *Lakbay-Aral.*

Even the employees of the Provincial Capitol are not left behind with their cultural-musical groups *Indak ng Bulacan* and *Himig ng Bulacan.*

Gov. Josie inspects an infrastructure miniature of the province.

Infrastructure: On a Fast-Track

DURING the last three years, a total of 1,802 infrastructure projects worth P1.5 billion were implemented by the provincial government. These include construction of roads, bridges, flood control and drainage systems, school buildings, water supply projects, rehabilitation ofirrigation facilities, and even facilities for telecommunications. Meanwhile, P37 million was spent for the rehabilitation of public structures owned by the provincial government.

To find ways to solve the flood problem, the Bulacan Watershed Management and Flood Control Task Force was created.

Peace and Order

THROUGH the years, Bulacan has emerged as one of the safest provinces in the country, thanks to an efficient police action. Crime solution efficiency in the province stood at 98% in 2000, very high from the previous 86 % and 88% in 1998 and 1999, respectively.

Because of this accomplishment, the Bulacan PNP and its officers have earned the following awards: 1998 Police Provincial Office of the Year, Regional Level; 1998 Senior Police Commission Officer of the Year, Regional Level; and 1999 Police Officer of the Year, National Level.

The campaign against illegal drugs is likewise going at a faster pace. Last year, combined efforts of the provincial government and police resulted in confiscation of P3.5 million worth of shabu and P20 million worth of marijuana. A total of 1,599 offenders were arrested.

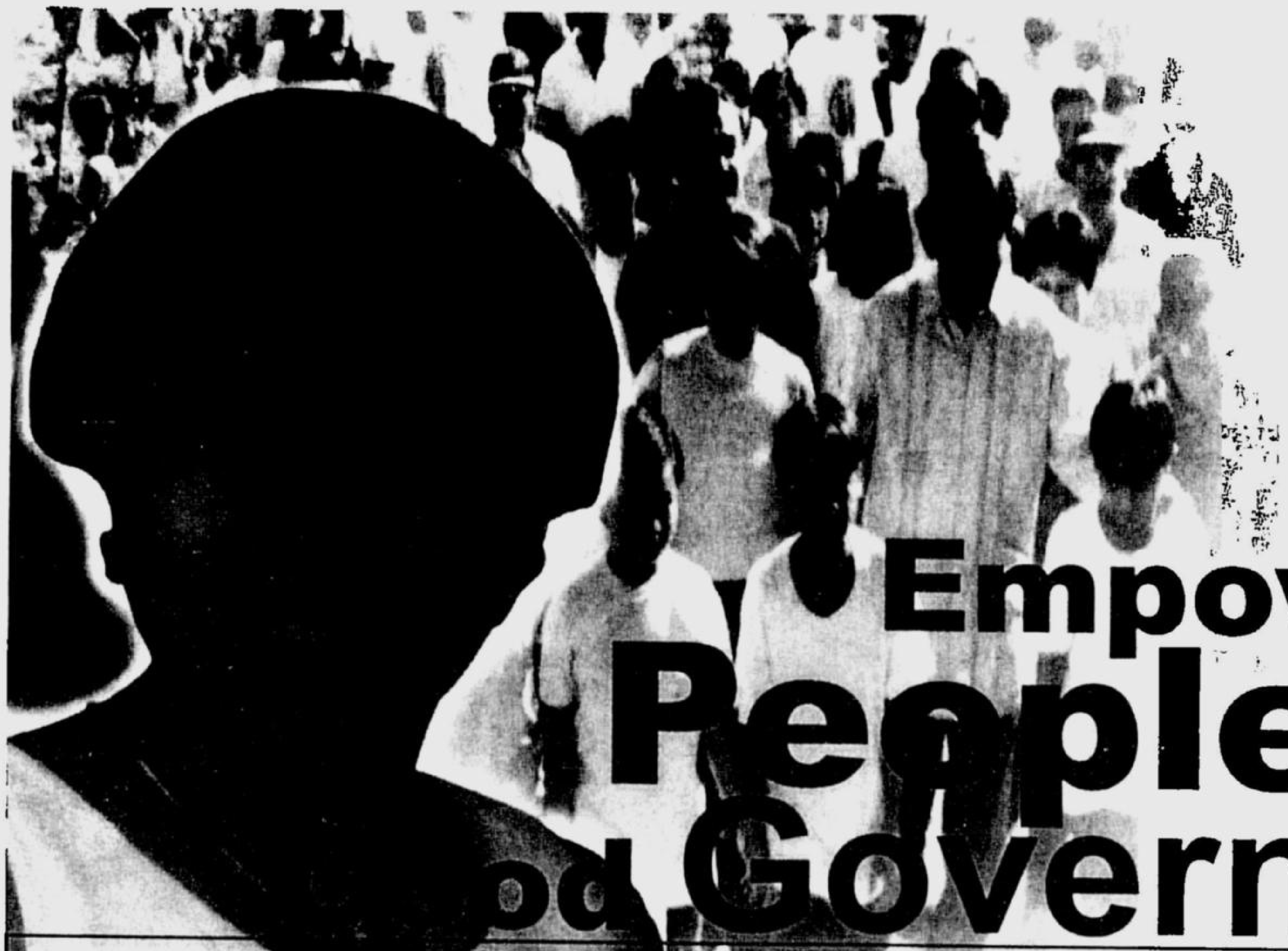
The campaign was complemented by the participation of 4,3888 youths in various seminars on illegal drugs undertaken by KAPANALIG province-wide.

Aside from this, the local government donated P650,000 as aid to the Dangerous Drug Rehabilitation Center, and P250,000 to rebel returnees.

'Sulong Pa, Bulacan!': the Bulakeño's battlecry

BULACAN'S battle cry *"Sulong Pa, Bulacan!"* may not be feasible if not for the hardworking and dedicated Bulakeños. It has been a paradigm of good government and motivated citizenry for the rest of the islands. It has proven that an environment free from detrimental elements is attainable only if its citizens are united toward a single end and officials are sensitive to people's aspirations.

Bulacan definitely reserves no room for indolence and failure. It has been hailed for so many times and so the legacy initiated must continue to move on. As constantly reminded by Gov. Josie, Bulakeños must keep on pursuing goals and actions with noble causes.■



Empowering People through od Governance:

(A Vision of Gov. Josie dela Cruz)

TIME WAS when women were viewed inferior compared to men. They were barred from participating in various social and political functions. As they say, *"pambahay lang ang mga babae."*

various social and political functions. As they say, *"pambahay lang ang mga babae."*

But not anymore!

As if to emphasize this fact, the province of Bulacan celebrated "Women's Month" last month. With the theme "*Kababaihan, mulat sa pakikilahok sa pagbabago at kaunlaran,*" the celebration aimed to raise social awareness on women empowerment as well as recognize the significant roles women play in our society today.

And who best personifies women empowerment than the province's leader herself – **Governor Josefina "Josie" M. Dela Cruz.**

Equipped with over 20 years of experience in the local government, Gov. Josie was the youngest to be elected provincial board member. In 1992, she became the first woman to be elected vice-governor of Bulacan and was re-elected to the same position in 1995. And in 1998, she went on to become the first lady governor of the province.

Awards & Recognitions

UNDER Gov. Josie's leadership, the province of Bulacan garnered various awards and recognition in different fields. These include the:

- 2000 Gawad Galing Pook for the provincial government's successful "re-invention of public service"
- 2000 Gawad Linis Paligid for being adjudged the cleanest agency in Region 3
- 2000 Sanduguan Award in recognition of the province's noteworthy contribution to the Voluntary Blood Donation program
- Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award
- 1999 Konrad-Adenauer Local Governance Award for its exemplary "bureaucratic innovations" or vital reforms in governance that made Bulacan a model in the whole country and Asia
- 1999 Human Development Award .for its development programs in health, livelihood, and education; and
- 1999 Most Outstanding LGU in Population Development

- 1999 Most Outstanding LGU in Population Development

Agriculture: Productive and Profitable

IN LINE with Gov. Josie's view that there should not only be productivity but profitability as well in the agriculture sector, "high value commercial crops production and organic farming technology" was introduced to farmers which brought them additional earnings of P5,521 each annually under small farm technology and P119, 581 under commercial farming.

Agricultural support services in the form of technical assistance, farm machineries and post-harvest facilities are continually being provided to boost yield.

At a time when the agriculture sector was heavily affected by the El Nino phenomenon, the provincial government extended more than P10 million in loans to local farmers to help them survive the low agricultural output. Aside from this, some 9,743 farmers were each given a bag of certified seeds while more than

tural output. Aside from this, some 9,743 farmers were each given a bag of certified seeds while more than

10,000 farmers were given five bags each of organic fertilizers costing a total of P15 million.

Gov. Josie and Vice Gov Roly distribute certified seeds to farmers.

Trade & Industry: Bullish and Upbeat

UNDER Gov. Josie's administration, new laws were enacted to enhance trade and industry in the province. Among these are the Provincial Investment Incentives Code, the Bulacan Investment Incentive Board (the first in the province), and 15 Municipal Investments Ordinances which helped in encouraging more investment ventures in the province.

Amid the economic crisis, Bulacan however, improved its employment rate – jumping to 92.2 percent in the previous year, a rate higher than the 90 percent of Region III and the 89.9 percent of the entire country.

Bulacan is known by many names. Speaking of economy alone, Bulacan is known to be the "Coop Capital of the Philippines" because of the increasing number of cooperatives in the province. It is also known to have the greatest number of SMEs or Small and Medium registered Entrepreneurs making it "SMEs Capital" in the country.

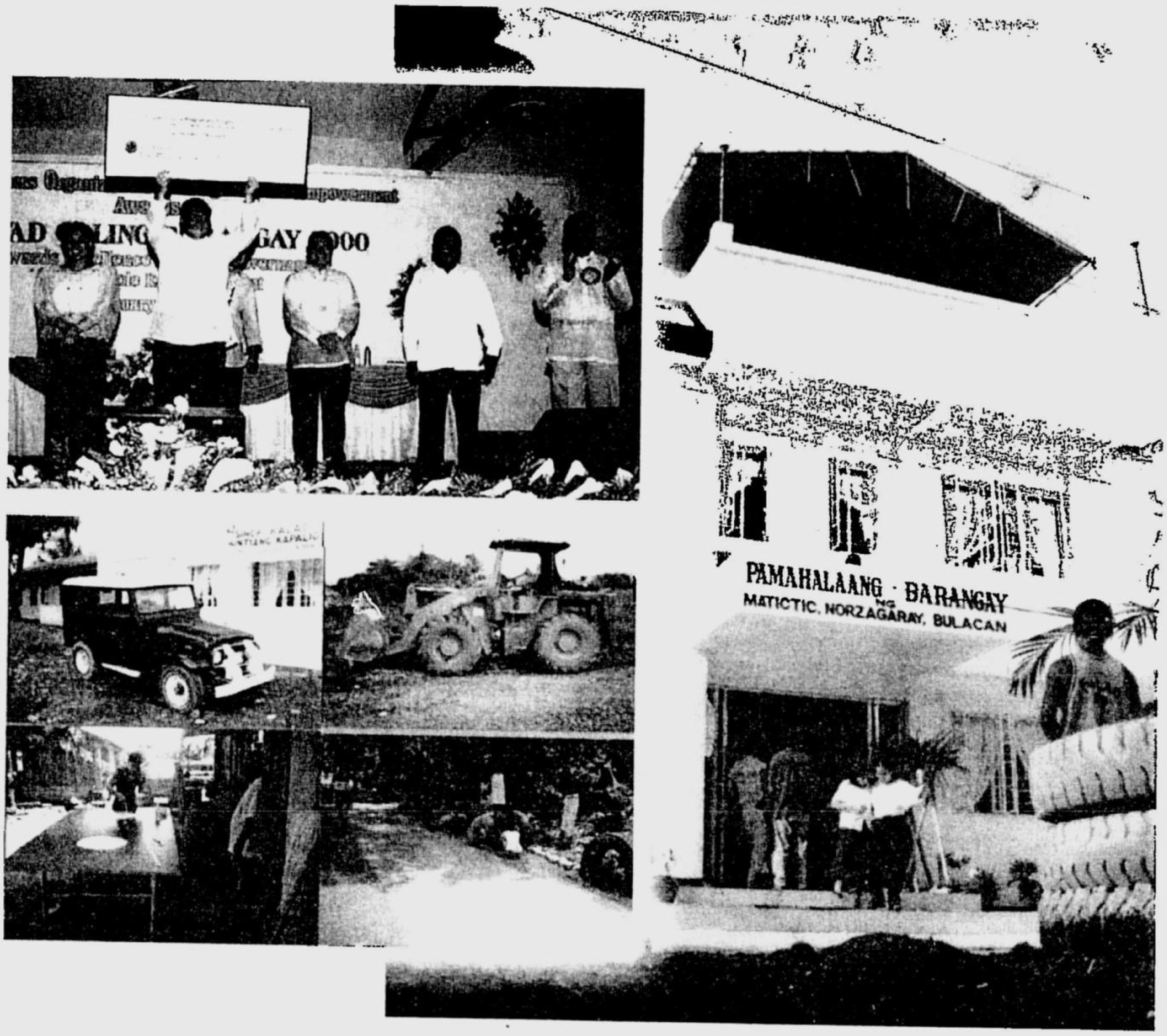
Environment: Clean & Green

BULACAN received "2000 Gawad Linis Paligid Award" for being the cleanest agency in the whole Central Luzon and this is just one of the living proofs that Bulacan advocates cleanliness and environmental protection. Adhering to the Bulakeño's vision of becoming a Sinop-Kalat at Luntiang Kapaligiran zone, Gov. Josie stands firm in refusing disposal of any foreign waste within Bulacan's jurisdiction, especially those coming from the Metropolis.

On the other hand, the province conducts continuous studies to solve dilemmas involving proper gar-

GAWAD GALING BARANGAY 2000

Empowering People Through Community Development



A classic model of wholistic governance is Barangay Matictic, Norzagaray, Bulacan.

THE 'GAWAD'

One major and distinct achievement attributed tô Gov. Josie Dela Cruz's administration is the institutionalization of the ***Gawad Galing Barangay 2000.*** The awards are in recognition of the significant role of the *barangay* in national development.

The first of its kind in in the country, the *Gawad Galing Barangay 2000* is an attempt to infuse new blood to development efforts of the community by ensuring their sustainability and replicability.

Patterned after the highly-acclaimed *National Gawad Pook*, of which Bulacan had been a consistent winner, the *Gawad Galing Barangay 2000* endeavors to recognize model barangays. These models of local governance would serve as the ideals and inspirations of a distinctly Bulakeno-kind of local governance: that which is borne of people participation as well as transparent and responsive local administration.

The *Gawad Galing Barangay* hopes to transcend the boundaries of politics and traditional local governance by setting into motion a perpetual search for success stories. It envisions to make these humble achievements of the barangay the very best reasons to hope and to dream the advent of a golden age for Bulacan.

OBJECTIVES

The *Gawad Galing Barangay 2000* is more than an awards program. It gives recognition to barangay programs that are effective, efficient, and creative. It defines innovation as a primary catalyst in raising the level of excellence of barangay local governance.

Likewise, it hopes to institutionalize a culture of people participation in all facets and phases of development, believing that only then can empowerment be real and beneficial.

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

Effectiveness – the extent to which the barangay iniative has influenced change in the community and provided a solution to a particular problem.
People Empowerment – the program's framework for participation of its beneficiaries from the decision-making, planning, to the actual implementation. It is the program's provisions for promoting human development.
Sustainability – the program's potential to outlive the present administration and effectively pass on the responsibility of continuous service.
Positive Impact – the ability of the program to significantly improve the social and material well-being of the community.
Replicability – refers to the program's potential to be an exemplary undertaking which can be repeated and imitated by other communities.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

After the *Gawad Galing Barangay* was launched in February 2000, the provincial government sent out application forms to the barangays through a comprehensive information drive. The accomplished forms were pre-screened for eligibility based on the following criteria: a) program must be initiated/managed by the barangay council; and b) it must be at least one-year at the time of application.

A core group of screeners representing various sectors of the community was then convened by the provincial government to draft the first shortlist of qualified barangay programs from 126 entries.

The Second Screening involved the Provincial Selection Committee (PSC) that further shortlisted the number of programs qualified for site validation, evaluation, and calibration to 23 semifinalists.

After the site visits, the PSC was able to bring down the number of semifinalists to seven (7) finalists during the Third Screening. These candidate programs then underwent the final interview from which top five (5) winning programs were chosen.

Each winning barangay program is to be given P200,000 to be used exclusively for the continuation of their program and the Gawad Galing plaque.

THE WINNERS

Barangay Camachin, Dona Remedios Trinidad
"Sagip Uhaw sa Barangay"

For the people of Barangay Camachin in Dona Remedios Trinidad, water supply had become an eternal issue. Despite the grim picture, the people of Barangay Camachin found a solution to their water problem by working together.

After pooling enough money from the barangay fund and financial assistance from a resident municipal councilor and congressman, the people of Barangay Camachin set off to bring natural spring water of the uplands nearer to their houses. A water tank was built with bare crude skills. Plans to supply each household with water were laid through makeshift distribution hoses. Of the almost 1,000 targetted beneficiaries of the Camachin Water System, the natural spring water system was able to service close to 800 members of the community.

Barangay Pandayan, Meycauayan
"Serving the Needs of Senior Citizens"

In 1994, a core group of senior citizens from Barangay Pandayan, Meycauayan, Bulacan formally organized the Pandayan Senior Citizens Association with the help of Meycauayan municipal government. The group of senior citizens immediately started a self-help fund -- the Tulong Damayan. This scheme made available to members of the association financial assistance in the event of a death in the family. What made the group stand out from other organizations was their commitment to make fellowship work for the benefit of each of the members.

Barangay San Francisco, Bulacan
"Proyektong Kaunlarang Pangkabuhayan sa Kooperatiba ng Barangay"

The Samahang Nayon of San Francisco was one among the many SNs in 1989 that approached the then Agro-Industrial Development and Assistance Center (now the Provincial Cooperative and Entrepreneurial Development Office or PCEDO) to seek support in their bid for full cooperative status.

With the help of the provincial government, the San Francisco Multi-Purpose Cooperative was granted loan facilities that helped boost their growth. The effects of their investments in training and resources soon became evident. Membership grew from a core of 35 in 1989 to today's 49 active cooperators and 128 associate members. Their measly P35,000 initial assets rose to P15.4 million. All these cater 11 years of collective hardwork and determination.

Barangay Bulac, Sta. Maria
"Kaunlarang Pangkabataan"

Located a little less than seven kilometers off the town proper, Bulac is relatively a young community with a big percentage of its residents being young people. The SK Kapatid or Kabataang Paglilingkod ang Hatid is service-oriented and responsible. It is also Bulac's official youth newspaper since 1996. The Kapatid heralds youth concerns, activities, and creative gimmicks.

Bulaga, which is the Bulac Artists' Guild produces value-laden plays and performances which are not only entertaining but educational as well.

Barangay Parada, Sta. Maria
"Kapayapaan at Kaayusan"

Barangay Parada is a relatively peaceful barangay east of the Sta. Maria center. It is among the first communities to recognize the need for a comprehensive and homegrown peace and order program.

In 1997, barangay officials of Parada laid the blueprint of their social order program. There was a growing number of drug-related cases and domestic and community disputes. After much deliberation, the barangay organized foot and mobile patrols. Equipped with a brand new vehicle and donated police equipment, an administration formed an 18-man Justice Committee with a bias for peaceful settlement. The programs earned the respect of the community not only as watchdogs but also as authorities in settle disputes.

Barangay Matictic, Norzagaray
(Grand Prize Winner)
"Pinagbuklod na Proyektong Pangkaunlaran"

The Gawad Galing Barangay 2000 is Bulacan's answer to the call for far-ranging, revolutionary reforms in local governance. It is an attempt to document how the culture of local government excellence has been assimilated into traditions. It is a discovery of emerging models of barangay governance: a process that would, in turn provide a more accurate measure of the impact of reforms in the provincial government.

A classic model of wholistic governance is Barangay Matictic, Norzagaray, Bulacan.

Matictic's share of local and national taxes had ballooned to millions due to the entry of a large cement plant and several major quarrying industries. Matictic has the largest share of agricultural land and has one of the widest quarrying sites in all of Norzagaray. It has sitios that are the promising future food baskets of the town. Both its infrastructural and social dimensions lend Matictic the necessary collaterals for development.

By providing almost all of its sitios with school buildings, Matictic is assured of basic educational services for its children.

What made Barangay Matictic a unique example of wholistic governance is its integrated approach to programs despite perceived geographical and demographical limitations. The provision of vital "satellite barangay centers" for each sitio made possible the provision of basic services for all residents of Matictic. A water supply facility in one sitio, a peace and order program in another, or a bayanihan cleaning and greening project in a community across the Angat river occur in simultaneous and complementary fashion like small dynamos of its larger service machinery.■

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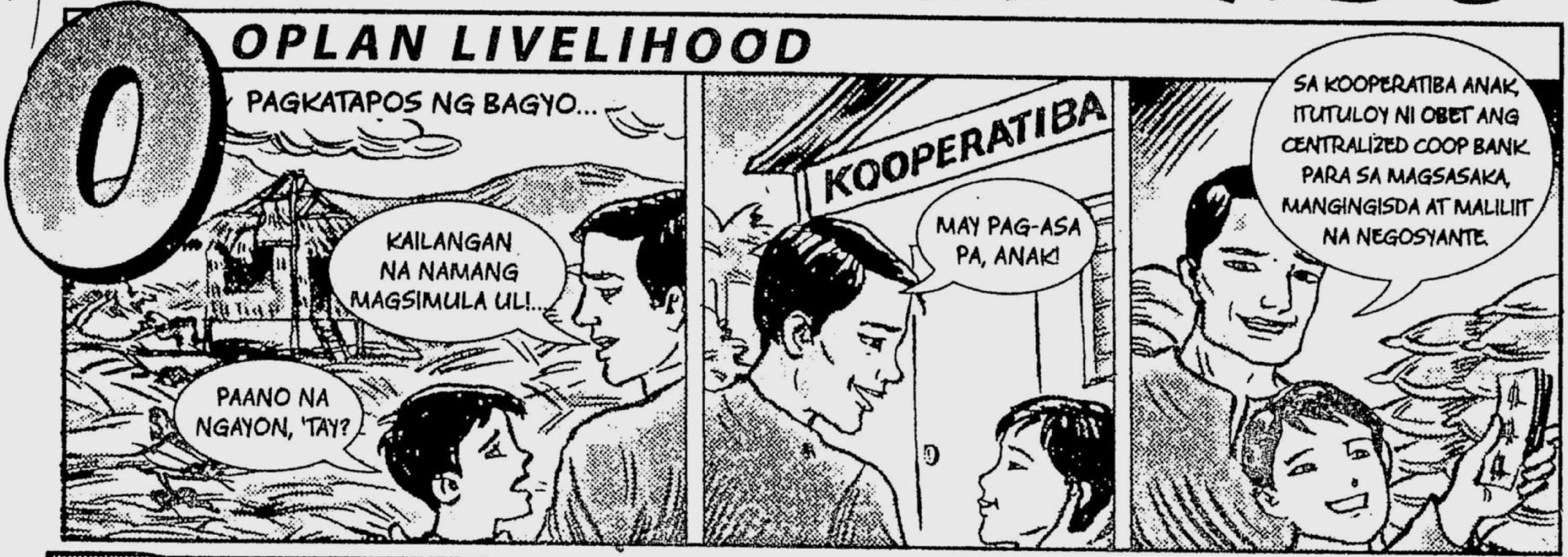
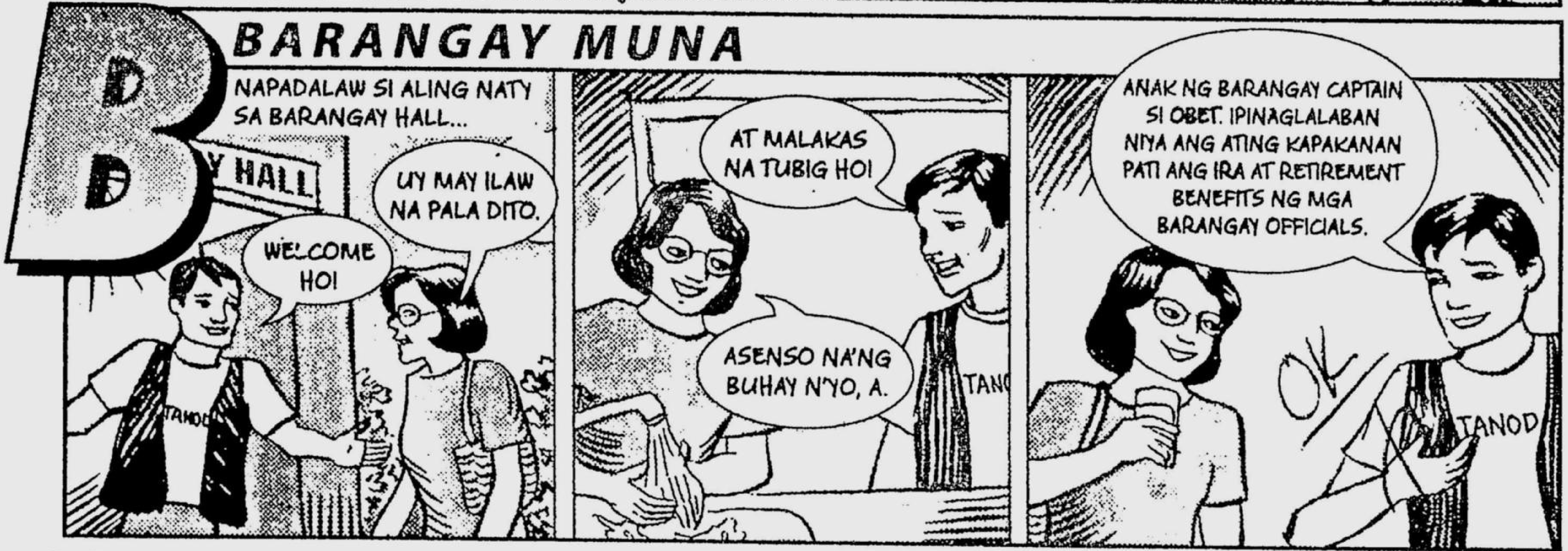

PAGKATAPOS NG BAGYO...
KAILANGAN NA NAMANG MAGSIMULA ULI!...
PAANO NA NGAYON, 'TAY?
KOOPERATIBA
MAY PAG-ASA PA, ANAK!
SA KOOPERATIBA ANAK, ITUTULOY NI OBET ANG CENTRALIZED COOP BANK PARA SA MAGSASAKA, MANGINGISDA AT MALILIIT NA NEGOSYANTE.

B BARANGAY MUNA


NAPADALAW SI ALING NATY SA BARANGAY HALL...
Y HALL
WELCOME HO!
UY MAY ILAW NA PALA DITO.
TANOD
AT MALAKAS NA TUBIG HO!
ASENSO NA'NG BUHAY N'YO, A.
TANO
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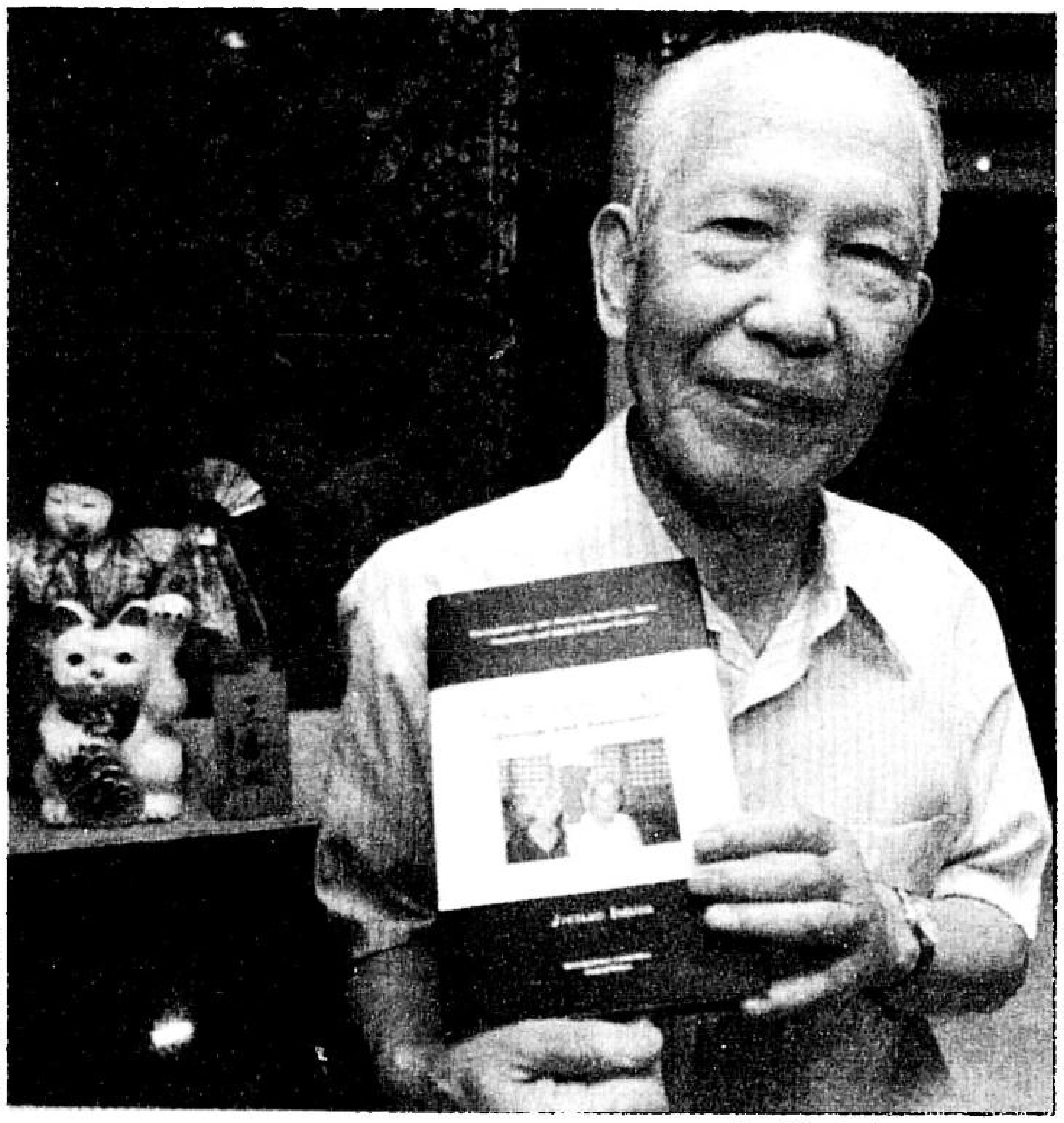
Pinoy Connection
by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

He did not see battle in 1942, but Jintaro Ishida documented Japan's war atrocities in his novels to fight for the rights of Filipino war victims. His latest book tells us why

A Crusade for Redress


Randy Hormillosa

For Ishida, justice lay in the truth

JINTARO ISHIDA THOUGHT HE KNEW ALL ABOUT THE WAR. ALTHOUGH HE NEVER SAW BATTLE, THE FORMER RADIO SURVEY TECHNICIAN MONITORED THE ENTRY OF SHIPS AND WAR VESSELS INTO JAPANESE WATERS. WAR DUTY FOR IMPERIAL JAPAN WAS REGARDED AS A SACRED AND ROYAL DUTY TO THE EMPEROR, A WAY OF EXPANDING THE ISLAND'S LIMITED TERRITORY. "I REMEMBER HOW WE CHEERED WHEN WE HEARD THAT JAPAN HAD DROPPED BOMBS ON MANCHURIA," RECALLS ISHIDA, NOW 80 YEARS OLD. "IT MEANT VICTORY FOR US."

When atomic bombs were dropped on Japan, however, everything changed. They wiped out not only towns, homes and families in Nagasaki and Hiroshima, but also Ishida's idealized regard for his country. Since then, he has written two documentations of Japanese atrocities in the Philippines, the latest being "The Remains of War: Apology and Forgiveness" (Megabooks, 2001), previously published in Japan as "The Killers and the Killed." Like his first book *"Walang Hiya"* (Without Shame: The Record of Filipino Civilians Massacred by the Japanese Army), "Remains of War" met with controversy in Japan. "People are still incredulous," Ishida says, shaking his head. "They still ask, 'Did this really happen?'

> *"I wanted to stop listening because their words were drowning the voices of the Japanese soldier in me. From sympathy for the soldiers, I developed sympathy for their victims"*

"I was shocked to find out that the bombs were dropped to stop Japan," says Ishida. Was there something he didn't know about the war? That set him off to another detour in a life already marked by several changes. A short story writer since he was 20, he taught elementary and high school classes for 30 years before quitting because he could no longer keep up with his students' boundless energy. He decided to become a novelist instead, writing on apartheid, the US bases in Okinawa, the plight of Okinawans resettling in South America and the treatment that Koreans get in Japan.

For research, he would stay in a particular country for at least a month, taking pains not only to interview his subjects but to observe their life. Now here was a new issue and Ishida approached it with the same relish as before, except that this time he slammed into a wall. Everybody clung to the official version, that Japan was a victim of war.

It was on a short tour to Malaysia where Ishida learned that a book about Japanese brutality in that country was being written, and that similar studies were being done in Indonesia and China. Was there another country where no such research had been started? There was: the Philippines.

After learning English for six months in 1986, Ishida pursued his subjects, whose reaction to this Japanese stranger, according to Ishida was "either to welcome me because I came all the way from Japan to talk to them, or to ignore me because they would rather forget the war." But he persisted.

When the stories started pouring out, he found that he couldn't bear to hear them. "I wanted to stop listening because their words were drowning the voices of the Japanese soldier in me. From sympathy for the soldiers, I developed sympathy for their victims."

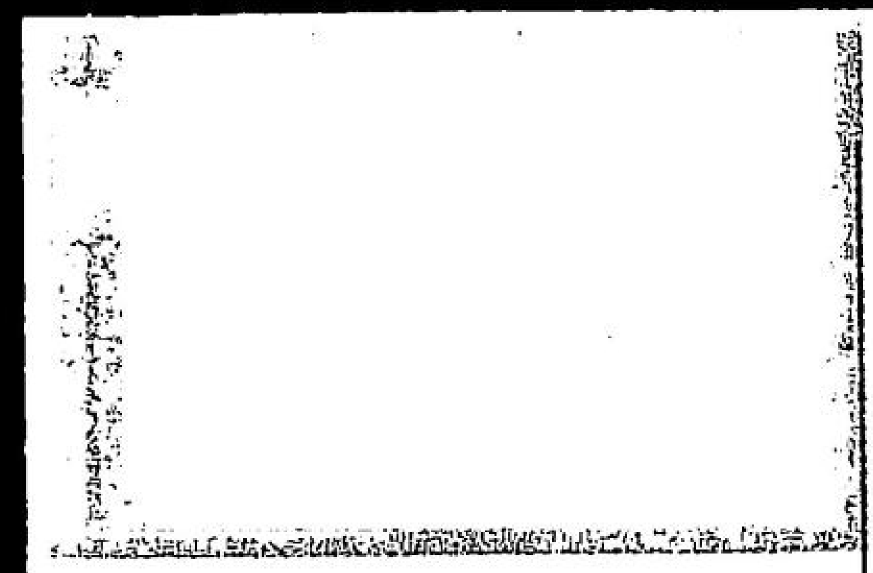
Proof of that sympathy was the man's willingness to spend his personal funds and limited pension for the research and eventual publication of the book. He could have asked for funding from an NGO or a veterans' foundation, Ishida admits, "but that would take time and I have to hurry. Time is against us. Most of the victims were dying on me because of age." To stretch his meager budget, he stayed in boarding houses and rode jeepneys, buses and pedicabs, a risky venture in the countryside, notes Japanese interpreter Kumiko Anada-Sayo. She recalls how a man in the same jeepney asked Ishida whether he was Japanese and when he confirmed it, the man started shouting, broke a bottle and threatened him with it. "But Ishida calmly stayed until the man's rage was spent."

"WALANG HIYA..." was published in Japan in 1990 and debuted to much disbelief. "It was the first time for most Japanese to hear the victims' stories," recalls Ishida, who started receiving invitations to speak on the subject. "But while the audience listened intently, there was no overt reaction at first," he says. Then Japan's Committee on Human Rights, a lawyers' group, came to the Philippines during the 50th anniversary of the war in 1994 to interview the victims. They came home with a proposal for Japan to compensate those whom they had wounded and killed in the war, not just the comfort women. The proposal has so far been ignored by the Japanese government, which claims that everything has been settled by the Reparations Law.

The fairly controversial reaction to his first book did not deter Ishida from writing "The Remains of War." "While I was interviewing them for my first book, the victims would ask me, 'Why did Japanese soldiers kill even babies, children and old people?' I was not in the killing field so I couldn't answer that question," says Ishida. "I've also asked myself the question since then. I was thinking, maybe if I were assigned in a foreign country during the war, I would have done the same thing." He decided to seek out the Japanese soldiers involved in "guerrilla subjugations" to answer the question.

It wasn't easy. While most Japanese soldiers immediately formed veterans associations based on their war assignments and became regular drinking buddies, Ishida found out that the soldiers assigned to Lipa, Batangas and Lumban, Laguna did not form one until 15-20 years after the war.

Hard work, persistence and an understanding wife helped him trace his quarry. When told of his purpose, that of writing a small book about their experiences in the war, the soldiers would immediately



bang down the phone. "Their attitude was 'Past is past. It's all water under the bridge.'" In the soldiers' interviews in the book, the reasons cited for their lack of remorse were varied. "We were only following orders." "Our commander would kill us if we did not kill." "It was a war and there must be killing." "It was the guerrillas who attacked us so we had to defend ourselves." "A lot of our soldiers also got killed."

Such hostile reception prompted Ishida to personally visit the soldiers "as an uninvited guest." Out of five homes he visited, he says, he was happy to net one successful interview. Most of the soldiers had become bedridden and others had died, but that did not stop Ishida from asking them hard questions. When one soldier justified the massacre of civilians in Lipa, Batangas and Lumban, Laguna by saying that "the guerrillas disturbed the operations of the Japanese Imperial Army," Ishida reminded him that Japan had invaded the Philippines and that the Filipinos were only defending themselves. When the soldier denied the invasion, he persisted, "You mean the Filipinos invited the Japanese Imperial Army?"

His confrontational approach lost him some points, Ishida admits. "I'm a bad reporter, I got too emotional and would argue with the soldiers," he adds. "I should have been gentler, and then I could have gotten more information."

But National Artist for Literature F. Sionil Jose thinks otherwise. "He dares to ask those taboo questions that demand the most probing and honest replies," Jose writes in his epilogue.

After "The Remains..." was published in Japan in 1992, many Japanese scholars, historians, war associations, labor unions, human rights workers and students came to the Philippines and sought out Ishida's subjects. They always cited his book as the source of their information, prompting his subjects to wonder when they could ever read a copy. Ishida decided it was time for an English version, one that Filipinos can read and understand. Again, time was crucial because age, sickness and death were fast overtaking his subjects. He decided to dip into his pocket again and co-publish the documentation with Megabooks, which usually deals with reference materials on mental health, social work, dictionaries, and so on.

"We were overwhelmed that a Japanese would write a book with a pro-Filipino bias," says Cathy Jaramillo of Megabooks. Ishida has two personal reasons for co-publishing

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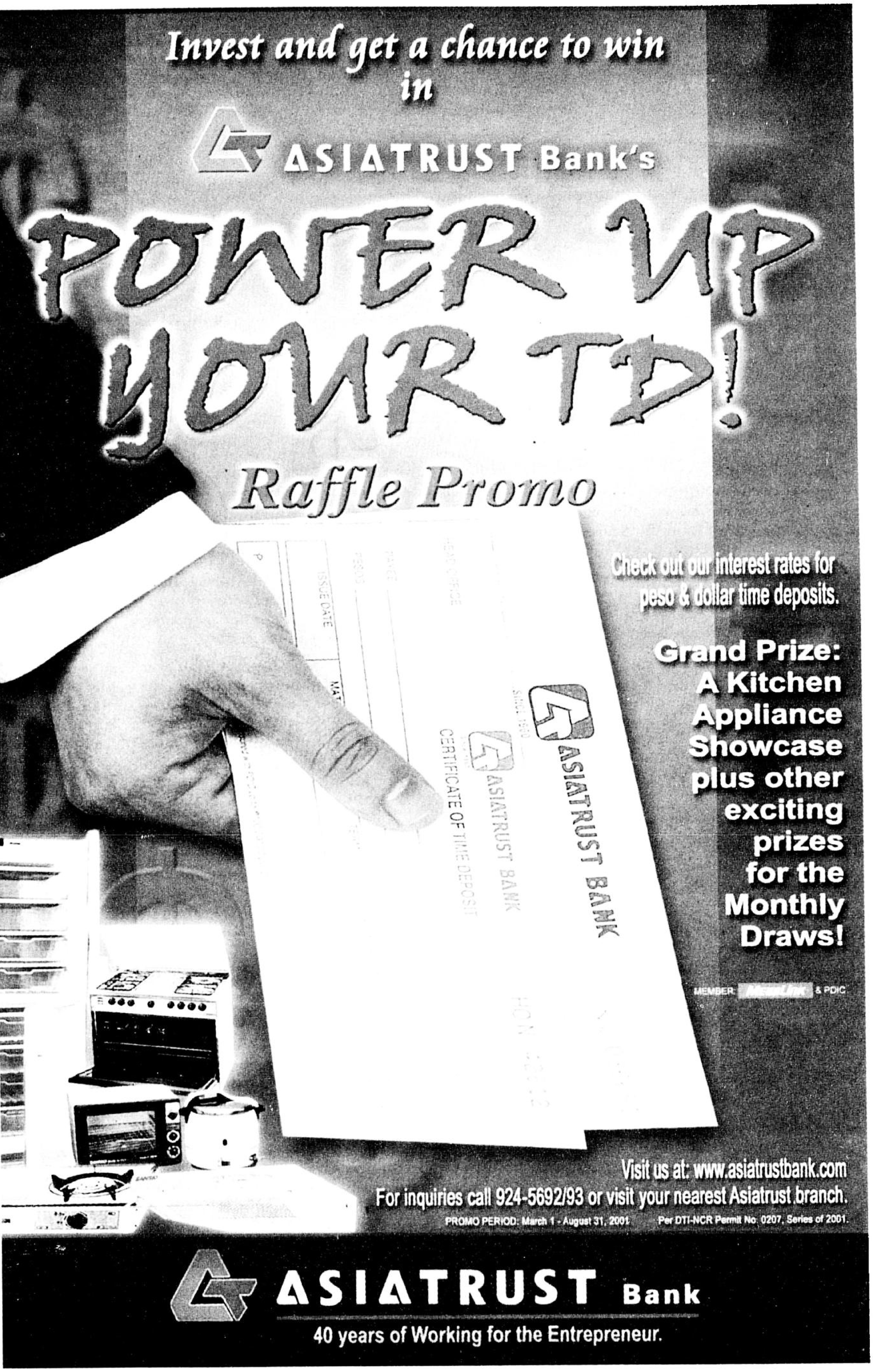
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Controversies

by Cora Llamas

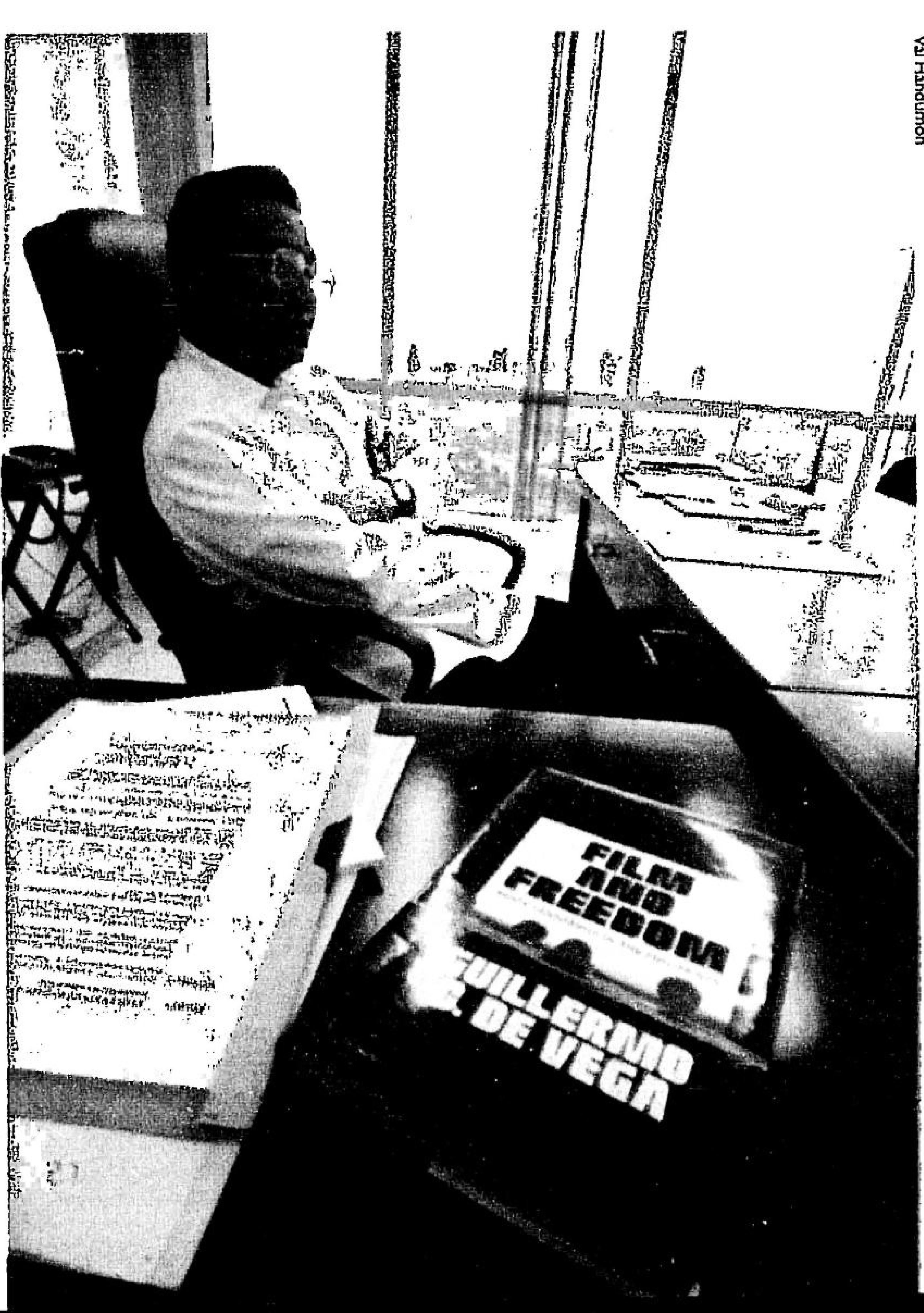
Dr. Nicanor Tiongson, the man the MTRCB lost over another petty censorship brouhaha, is no stranger to cultural and artistic battles

In the Eye of the Storm

WARNINGS OF AN ALLEGED NEW CRACKDOWN ON FREEDOM HAVE BROKEN OUT ONLY A SHORT TWO MONTHS AFTER EDSA 2. THIS TIME, THE LOUD VOICES ARE COMING FROM DIRECTORS AND PRODUCERS OF THE FILM INDUSTRY, PROTESTING THAT A STREAK OF ULTRACONSERVATISM IS CREEPING BACK INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S MOVIE AND TV REVIEW CLASSIFICATION BOARD. THE CENTER OF THE CONTROVERSY IS JOEY REYES' "LIVE SHOW," AN EXPOSÉ ON THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WHO PERFORM LIVE SEX FOR A LIVING; DEPENDING ON WHO YOU ASK, THE MOVIE IS EITHER PORNOGRAPHY OR CINEMATIC ART.

The unlikely catalyst of this storm was Dr. Nicanor G. Tiongson, who submitted his "irrevocable resignation" to Malacañang only a month after his appointment. A respected figure in the film industry and the literary circles, the mild-mannered scholar, film teacher, critic, author and lecturer seems more at home in a classroom or in his library than on TV interviews.

But a closer look shows that Tiongson has always been a fighter and a revolutionary. He championed freedom of creativity and expression along with fellow teachers and artist friends from the Concerned Artists of the Philippines and Free Artists of the Philippines. Months before Edsa 2, he resigned along with other MTRCB members, believing that the Estrada administration "had lost its moral ascendancy."



Val Handumon

In his office before the controversy: "The soul of a country is in its art"

As a young professor at the Ateneo de Manila University during the First Quarter Storm, he had helped introduce the teaching of Filipino-centric subjects into an elitist, Westernized curriculum. "We had to speak English all the time, and with the right accents. I joined the faculty when Ateneo started the Philippine Studies program. Bien Lumbera was the chairman, Virgilio Almario, the late Rolando Tinio and Eric Torres were the other faculty members."

Then, during his eight years as artistic director of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) from 1986-1994, Tiongson brought art, once regarded as the exclusive property of the moneyed and/or the educated, back to the people. "We were united by a vision." He is quick to give equal credit to the rest of the team: Nes Jardin and Tess Rances (now of Ballet Philippines), playwright Malou Jacob, and then CCP president Bing Roxas (now deceased). "The Marcos era contributed to the arts, but the thrust was an elite culture focused on Manila. I fe that it should be the other way around. Original Filipino works wer given preference in terms of funding and venues, against what w perceived to be a very colonial orientation."

Soon enough, regardless of where the tides of censorship mov Tiongson will be going back to his first love, teaching film and literature, among other subjects, at the University of the Philippin (UP). Not many knew that, in accepting the MTRCB chairman pos he had turned down a teaching job at the prestigious Berkeley Inst tute in the United States.

In the end, teaching may be the best way he can share what h believes: that art is important in raising national consciousness, an national consciousness is vital to nation building. "The soul of country is in its art. And if cultural forms are missing, there will b no national consciousness."

Not surprisingly, his own socio-cultural awakening was prompted b his profession. Teaching philosophy and literature to young Tausug in Notre Dame University in Jolo, the Ateneo graduate soon foun himself attending weddings and other community gatherings. It wa a time when educated Manileños looked down on the *probinsyano* But in interacting with them, he realized that "we had more things i common than differences. I began to ask questions about identity What is Filipino? Why is this different from my culture?"

The seeds of nationalism, though, had been planted long befor Bulacan, where Tiongson spent his boyhood, was the "first capit of the republic. I grew up watching the local parades and th *senakulo*." His Chinese-Filipino *mestizo* upbringing also made him stickler for the discipline he would later apply to his scholasticism "Tradition was always very strong with us. My family ate and praye at the same time, and the children talked to our elders respectfully

What finally cemented his walk down the pro-Filipino path was book by Chairman Mao. "In the 1970s, I was just teaching for th sake of it. After reading it, I decided to become a teacher, to rais national consciousness, to help define what a Filipino is. I began t ask, 'Where is the bigger picture?'"

Eventually, Tiongson was forced to do his own research. The available literature on Filipino arts and culture at that time were mainl graduate students' thesis, analyzing them according to Western stan dards. To teach his students traditional theater like "Mutya ng Pasig. he spent his own money looking for sources, and then recordin and taping them.

Years later, recognizing the need for a research source on Filipin art and culture, the CCP artistic director published the 10-volum CCP Encyclopedia and pioneered Tuklas Sining, which consisted o 28 monographs and videos.

These days, Tiongson edits *Pelikula*, a biannual magazine giving in depth analyses of movies aside from the usual reviews and behind the-scene interviews with leading film luminaries. It's another ste towards raising the national consciousness, this time via the mov ies.

To page 19

by Fr. Ruben J. Villote

Seven Days with Jesus

"Be still and know that I am God," says the Psalmist. Try to keep your big mouth shut for a change, your body at rest and your mind focused on Jesus

Palm Sunday

The Old Testament images of liberator-kings entering their domains amid the waving of palm branches and the singing of Hosannas (3 Kgs. 9:13 and 1 Mc. 13:51) were images familiar to the Jews in Jesus' time.

In the New Testament, the Palm Sunday drama of Jesus entering is believed to be the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophesy of the coming King.

The "fans" of Jesus wanted their "idol" to be a king according to their own fantasy of Fame, Fortune and Power. When Jesus refused to be a king according to their own image, the Jesus Freaks turned around to become his murderers.

Fans and admirers (whether in politics, show business or religion) are said to have the power to put you on a pedestal and also the power to shoot you down if you fail to fit into the image they have created for you.

Because Jesus was neither a politician nor a movie star, he did not care about being popular, powerful and rich. All he cared about was to announce the truth about the kingdom of God even if that kingdom was not popular both with the people and the temple priests. That is why Jesus was a dismal failure during Holy Week.

Hold your *palaspas* close to your chest, and tell Jesus about your fidelity to him who is faithful to you, even to those who have walked out on him.

Monday in Holy Week

Choose to be relatively quiet for the rest of the week. It is good for your health.

The World Health Organization (WHO) warns that 115 decibels can lead to loss of hearing, shock, insanity and even suicide. WHO has established a limit of 67 decibels; anything beyond that can be dangerous to your health.

The following "dangerous noise pollutants" that kill us silently every passing day are traffic noise (70-90 decibels), drilling tools (80 decibels), TV (70 decibels), carrier jets (140 decibels), trucks and airplanes (100-110 decibels), disco music (90-110 decibels).

Try to distance yourself away from the traditional religious noise of the electronic *pabasa, senakulo* and *penitencia* as well as from the deliberate noise of cynical debaters and unbelievers who take their noise pollution up to Baguio and the beaches precisely on Good Friday. Prepare a particularly quiet place in your house where you can spend the rest of the Holy Week in solitude alone or with a few kindred spirits. Or look for a less crowded convent or seminary chapel where you and your friends can spend late afternoons just being with Jesus. Befriend a priest there and schedule your Easter Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Tuesday in Holy Week

Being quiet during Holy Week does not mean "being speechless and looking weird." It simply means moving away from the hustle and bustle of ordinary life into a relatively more tranquil and less turbulent life flow.

But being quiet does not necessarily bring immediate inner peace. On the contrary, it is precisely during quiet moments when we become restless, nervous and bored. Immediately we want to do something to entertain ourselves: read a pocketbook, turn on the radio, daydream or fall asleep. Worst, it is during quiet times when inner voices rush up from within our soul in the form of bad memories, angry and guilty feelings, self-doubt, impulsive desires, unresolved questions.

But it is also true that to be quiet is to choose to be fully awake and alert to the small voice of the spirit speaking to our heart, inviting us to enter into our inner space where we can sort out the many movements in our soul. It is in that inner space where we shall know that we are God's beloved. And only then can we begin to pray.

Prepare a big pitcher of water or *pito-pito* (10 glasses). Consume the liquid through the day. Offer each glass like a prayer for a personal or global intention. See how this exercise can calm your nerves and cleanse your innards.

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Holy Week is a good time as any to think about our being human. "*Sapagkat Kami'y Tao Lamang*" is a Filipino song about the human condition, which is not really as bleak and bitter as the song would want us to believe. If indeed there are bleak and bitter cases of human misery, depravity and over-publicized example of man's surrender to his "weak and fallen nature," there are also brave and beautiful cases of human achievement, virtue and a thousand unpublicized examples of conquest and triumph over human weakness.

The song, however, should never be used as an excuse for irresponsibility. Instead, it should be taken as a humble acceptance of the fact that man alone (*tao lamang*) without his God is bound to fail. "Without me," Jesus said, "you can do nothing" (Jn. 15:5).

Holy Wednesday is a good day to make your Easter Sacramental Confession and Via Crucis. Avoid the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday crowds.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday

These are days of deep silence and "relaxed immobility." "Be still and know that I am God," says the Psalmist. Try to keep your big mouth shut for a change, your body at rest and your mind focused on Jesus.

Keep your diet light, your senses under control and your unruffled disposition manifest through a half-smile.

Dwell not on the ugly and bloody face of your Savior. That's all a part of the past now. See him instead as one who is now risen and speaking in your heart and calling you "My Beloved."

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Prepare a simple evening meal on Maundy Thursday and eat quietly by candlelight with your family or close friends. Talk about your friendship and the need to give and receive forgiveness. End the meal with a prayer or a song, and with a lot of hugging.

On Good Friday, come together again and read the Gospel on the Passion of Christ. Or watch a Hollywood film on the sufferings and death of Christ. You will probably end up feeling pious, yes, but definitely desensitized and bored.

If you want to see the real face of the suffering Christ, read the past issues of our daily tabloids and broadsheets, and you will find there all the reasons for which Jesus suffered and died. Hatred, greed, corruption, manipulation of the weak, domination of the powerless, murder, betrayal, hypocrisy, lust (in all its forms), infidelity, godlessness, arrogance, right there on the covers and front pages of printed media. Right there in "Live Show." That is what Good Friday is all about.

Let us look Jesus straight in the eye, and not blink. Do not be afraid to gaze at his pain, which is the pain of all the characters in "Live Show" and in the stories of our lives.

Let us not debate and quarrel and trivialize the raw, the sad and the sinful realities of our lives together. Let us instead lift up our hearts in hope, and prepare to listen again to the voice of the Risen Christ promising us a new day and a second chance.

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Crime **Busters**

From victims to survivors to legislators: Can the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption manage the transformation?

THEY are familiar faces on the evening news, this clutch of men and women holding the hand of survivors and victims of crime as their cases go through the tedious justice system. They are the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC), a private nonprofit group formed in 1998 by Dante Jimenez and Lauro Vizconde who have themselves lost family members to crime. "Why is it that criminals are guaranteed their rights — to bail and free counsel — while victims have to pay their own lawyers and deal with bribery, 'fix-cals' and corruption in the judicial process?" asked VACC chair Jimenez. Maybe it was time for these victims to press their fight elsewhere. Why not Congress? In response to SIM's request, VACC sent materials on which are based the following answers:

JUSTICE for
ONATO TRIÑOS
RESIDENT, CAIR
VACC
LINISIN ANG

Dante Jimenez leads a rally

Why is the VACC seeking party list representation?

Mainly to have a voice in Congress that would enhance our goal of giving justice to victims whose woes and sentiments are often ignored by legislators. We also want to be self-reliant and independent from outside pressures on whom we sometimes depend for funding and donations. Lastly, being a party list representative would help us widen our scope and services to the less fortunate.

What is your legislative agenda?

- We will work for laws that will serve the interests of victims of crime and corruption
- We will work for the improvement of the law enforcement systems and the judiciary and penal system that will fight crime and corruption in government
- We will pass laws that will enhance crime prevention and eradication through youth education and inculcation of moral values in government

Do you have specific laws or programs in mind?

We want to put in place the following:

- a one-stop shop or office for crime victims where they can easily follow up and monitor the progress of their cases, from filing to resolution, without spending a fortune
- an independent anti-graft unit
- laws that would guarantee the protection of the victims' rights

Who are your nominees?

We'd rather not give names as it might confuse voters who might write that nominee's name instead of VACC on the space for party list. Our nominee is definitely a member of the 4000+ VACC volunteers who are spread all over the country with 24 provincial chapters in Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Nueva Ecija, Batangas, Mindoro, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Masbate, Catanduanes, Albay, Cebu City, Agusan del Norte, Cagâyan de Oro City, North Cotabato, Surigao del Sur and Baguio City.

What have you done to uphold the interest of the public?

So far, the VACC offers the following services for crime victims:

- Court-watch, or monitoring of cases while they are being investigated and tried;
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- A 24-hour victims' assistance hotline (525-6277)
- Legal aid through our volunteer lawyers
- Corruption Prevention Units that monitor corruption in government

What have you done that you are proudest of in public life?

For the year 1998-99, we won 31 out of 35 cases in court, including the Vizconde massacre case, the Vinculado murder case, the Baby Echegaray murder case and the Joro-Joro (kite boy) murder case. Today, the VACC continues to help 3,811 victims.

Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

Voter's Voice 2001 Eleksyon

It's Your Choice

*Editor's note: The **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** continues its contribution to the Philippine Daily Inquirer's "Voter's Voice: Eleksyon 2001" coverage with a series of short profiles of candidates. Each issue, the magazine will feature some senatorial candidates, either party-affiliated or independent, to help voters get to know the people running for national positions. We will also speak to some party list representatives and, as a reminder that this election will have repercussions in our very own backyards, a few unique stories of local government candidates from small communities all over the country. We will feature the interviews as they come; thus, the candidates will be profiled in no particular order. We are proud to be carrying out this project in cooperation with GMA-7 Watch out for more profiles of the senatorial candidates every evening on GMA's news programs "Saksi" and "Front Page."*

FRANCIS "KIKO" N. **PANGILINAN**

LP-People Power Coalition

CALL him Mr., not Mrs., Sharon Cuneta please, requests Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, one of the People Power Coalition's 13 senatorial contenders. Pangilinan, 37, has a law degree from the University of the Philippines and an MA in public administration from Harvard University. The former legal adviser of a public service program on ABC-CBN first ran for Congress in 1992 and lost. But the lack of political experience, he says, gives him a fresh perspective, "a different way of looking at things, which I think this is the proper approach."

Why should people vote for a newcomer like you?

I think there is a public clamor for new faces and fresh, young people. I guess this was born out of the exasperation that voters feel for politicians who do not seem to deliver the goods in the long run.

What is the central theme of your campaign?

Active citizenship. Our slogan is "Kumilos kasama si Kiko." It means, if we want to build our community, we will have to participate in shaping it.

What can people expect from you?

I always throw that back to people who ask me. I tell them: we have to start changing our approach to public servants and elected officials. The approach must be, 'When you're there, what can we do to help?'" If people want to shape policy, they must be ready to act and show their vigilance—like in People Power II.

Who do you relate to in public life?

(South Africa's Nelson) Mandela. He's probably in the same league as Mahatma Gandhi because he was able to lead a nation and reconcile people on issues of apartheid and racial prejudice. Also, Mao Zedong who was able to unite and lead 600 million. That's no joke, although he remains controversial when it comes to methods.

What do you think about leadership? What words or images come to mind when you think about leadership?

It's a mistake to think of a leader as one like Moses who led his people to the Promise Land, as an individual who will come down to save us all.For me, leadership is not about messiahs, it's about inspiring communities to address common concerns. A true leader, I think, will not be able to address community problems by his lonesome.

What's the most powerful idea you've come across?

Offering your life for something you really believe in.

Eric Olona

SANTANINA T. **RASUL**

LAKAS-NUCD-UMDP

IN THE realm of Mindanao politics, former Senator Santanina Rasul, who's on a comeback bid for a Senate seat as Independent candidate, has claimed the role of representing the troubled region in national government. She first gained national prominence when then President Corazon Aquino handpicked her to run for the Senate in the first democratic elections held after the Marcos dictatorship. Rasul won and has authored several landmark bills.

What is the central theme of your campaign?

My focus is on peace and national unity. The second is alleviation of poverty because the problem in Mindanao is deeply rooted in poverty. Then, sustainable development and protection of environment, upliftment of marginalized sectors — the highlanders, the cultural minorities, the women — and scholarships for the youth.

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What experiences shaped who you are?
During the Japanese occupation, we suffered the ravages of war. We lost everything. Then in 1974, during the war between the Moro National Liberation Front and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, again we lost everything. That's why I really hanker for peace.
Who has been the most important person in your life and what did you learn from him/her?
My parents. From my father I got my love for books and music, and of course, scholarship. From my mother, who was a full-time housewife, I learned what should be my priority in life — taking care of my family.
Whom do you relate to in public life?
I could think of two — the late President Diosdado Macapagal and President Aquino, who is a woman of fortitude, very courageous, in spite of the fact that she did not have the training like other public officials.
When you think about leadership, what words and images come to mind?
Leadership by example, humility, and none of the bravado and the arrogance that you see people of importance display.
What do you read?
My favorite book is the Holy Koran because it is what sets the guideposts for me. I have read all these "Chicken Soups," which I find very relaxing. Right now, because I'm amazed by the interest of my grandson, I'm starting to read "Harry Potter."
What have you done that you are proudest of in your public life or political career?
I'm very proud of my literacy work, which I started as early as 1966 and which continues up to this day. In my public life, it is the laws I have authored, the laws on women.
Tell us a time when you voted your conscience in the face of strong public opposition.
I have always voted in accordance with my conscience and the voting was always right, except for the time when I voted for the retention of the US bases for economic reasons.

Nini Valera

RALPH G. **RECTO**

LAKAS-NUCD-UMDP-People Power Coalition

A NINE-year veteran of Congress as Representative of Batangas' 4th District, Recto was known as "Mr. Vilma Santos" during the early part of his political career for banking on the popularity of his actress wife, now Mayor of Lipa City. But Recto would prove his worth through his performance. He was elected to Congress at 28, then "the Benjamin of the House." He has two master's degrees, one in Public Administration from the University of the Philippines, and another in Strategic Business Economics from the University of Asia and the Pacific.

When you talk about family values or moral values, what do you mean?
I will not be what I am today were it not for the values my parents taught me – love, respect, sharing, caring, compassion, responsibility, integrity and honesty. Family is the most important thing to me. The values that my parents taught me are the values I want to teach my children.
What's the most important decision you've ever made?
Marrying Vilma – but having a popular wife has its consequences, too. When I entered politics nine years ago, I was accused of using Vilma to get the votes. Now, it's happening again because I'm running for the senate. But what's wrong with my wife campaigning for me? I am very fortunate to have a beautiful and popular wife. I know half of the male population would love to be in my shoes.

Was there a time when you voted your conscience in the face of strong public opposition?
It was always a conscience vote, even against my own judgement and despite strong public opposition.
If you could go back and undo one decision in your life, what would it be and why?
I would have taken up law. I would have been more serious in my studies when I was younger because I was more inclined toward enjoying life.
What qualities and skills make you the best person for the job?
I am passionate about my work. I embody creative ideas and a new philosophy of governance. I'm reform-oriented and radical-minded.
Who has been the most important person in your life and what have you learned from him/her?
My wife. I was still a student when I met her and she was already at the top of her career. I matured with her. I learned the value of hard work and the power of prayer.
When you think about leadership, what words and images come to mind?
Adaptability. Change is constant. We now live in a very modern environment. Technology is very fast so we must learn how to adapt.
Who are your political role models?
My grandfather. My parents, teachers and family friends tell me I am so much like with my grandfather in many ways. Batangas has produced heroes and national leaders such as (Apolinario) Mabini, (Miguel) Malvar, (Gregorio) Del Pilar, (Teodoro) Agoncillo, (Jose) Laurel and Claro M. Recto. I also look up to them.
What was the last book you read?
"A Time To Change," the biography of President George W. Bush.

Leah Salterio

Affirmative **Aksyon** for Public Schools

While it vows to represent various sectors, Aksyon Demokratiko sees education as the key to change

IT IS probably best known for fielding then Sen. Raul Roco for presidency in 1998 and making him land a strong third despite the powerful political machinery and populist campaign of his two biggest rivals. This time around, Aksyon Demokratiko isn't gunning for a national post but is joining the party list system, which it describes as "a mechanism to help national and regional political parties as well as sectoral groups gain representation in Congress."

Romy Hornillada

Macatulad

What is your party's platform or legislative agenda?
Our platform is to empower the people, protect women and children, ensure education for all, bring economic opportunities, fight for justice through rule of law, care for the environment, promote sustainable development and inculcate the values of work, study and prayer. Our priority legislative agenda is to work for laws that will help improve the quality of public school education and create special departments in state universities that will attract top graduating high school students to pursue a career in education.
Who are your nominees and what makes them the best people to represent your party?
We have civic leader Ever C. Macatulad, a former top executive of IBM Phils. and Transportation Undersecretary who conceptualized and implemented the Rotary Club's public school teacher training program with the Ateneo University; women's rights advocate Loret D. Ayson; former Health undersecretary and public health advocate Dr. Jaime Galvez-Tan; Dipolog-based Atty. Flint T. Concha, Jr. who successfully spearheaded and implemented the "Grameen Bank" system of loaning to women in over six municipalities in Misamis Occidental and Zamboanga del Norte, and Vic P. Sanchez, a civic and community leader who is a political officer and a legislative staffer of the Philippine Senate.
What drives or motivates you?
We in Aksyon are motivated by our desire to contribute to the attainment of genuine change in governance, which can only be achieved by electing principled leaders in government.
When you think of leadership, what ideas or images come to mind?
Leadership means working for the public good and achieving people's aspiration to create a better world for our children.
Who do you relate to in public life?
Former Senator and now DECS Secretary Raul S. Roco for his fearless fight in protecting the rights of the marginalized and upholding the rule of law.
Talk about your governing style.
We believe in principled and participative governance.

Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

End Page

by Jonathan Best

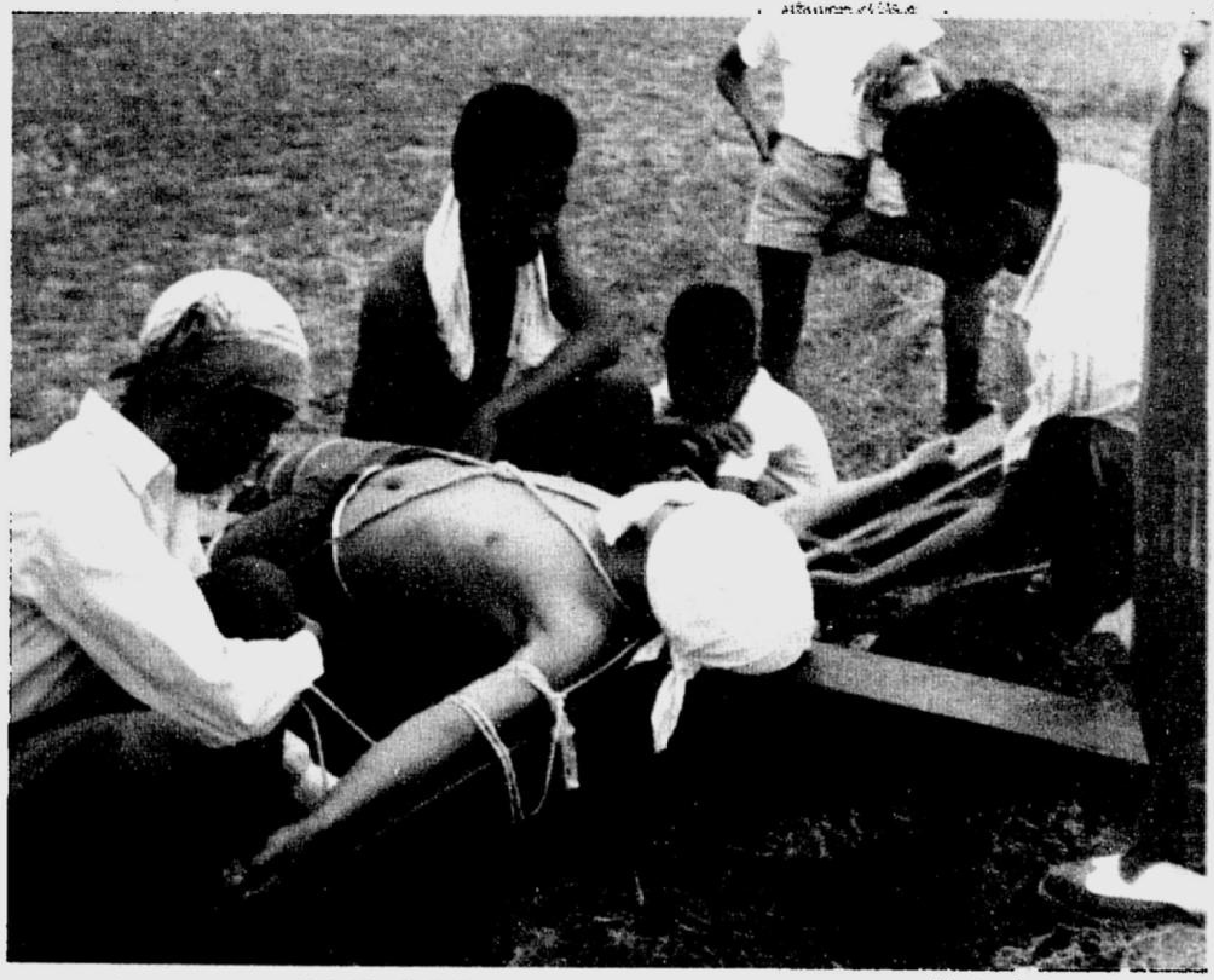
Men of **God**

On the road with the Christian flagellants

SINCE INDEPENDENCE IN 1946, RELIGIOUS FLAGELLATION HAS BECOME AN INCREASINGLY POPULAR HOLY WEEK RITUAL. IN THE 1960S CRUCIFIXIONS WERE ADDED TO THIS TRADITION, WHICH IS CENTERED ON A FEW SMALL TOWNS IN WESTERN BULACAN AND PAMPANGA. VARIATIONS OF THESE RITUALS CAN ALSO BE FOUND IN MANY OTHER PROVINCIAL TOWNS AND CITIES THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES. SWARTHY YOUNG MEN BIND THEIR ARMS AND LEGS WITH COARSE ROPE, PLACE CLOTH HOODS AND CROWNS OF LEAVES OVER THEIR HEADS, AND WALK THE ROADS FLAGELLATING THEIR NAKED TORSOS WITH A UNIQUE CAT-O-NINE TAILS.

Blood appears to flow freely, and unsuspecting tourists will find their clothes and vehicles splattered by the passing devotees. The men do not actually beat themselves until the skin breaks; rather they first lacerate their backs with bits of glass or metal before the ordeal begins. Much of the liquid which splashes about is actually blood mixed with copious amounts of sweat, as midday during Holy Week is often the hottest time of year in the Philippines.

The *kristos* who have themselves crucified on Good Friday have been slowly developing their own, increasingly theatrical, traditions. The first men to appear in the 1960s were simply bound to the cross, which actually may be a more accurate reenactment of the original crucifixion of Jesus. Today, however, the *kristos* have themselves nailed to the cross with stainless steel spikes. Attendants dress in colorful costumes complete with curly wigs and biblical paraphernalia. Women have joined the ranks of those crucified, and even a Japanese porn star managed to infiltrate the scene a couple of years ago.



A kristo being tied to a cross in the 1960s

The practice of Christian self-flagellation first came to the Philippines from Spain in the early 1600s. According to Pedro Chirino's 1600 account, the Jesuits introduced flagellation and self-mortification, and the Filipinos adapted to it with great enthusiasm. Even young children were allowed to bind themselves to crosses weighted with stones and parade around towns during Holy Week in the 17th century. Groups of flagellants existed among Christians in Europe as early as the 11th century and similar rituals have been recorded in Europe even in pre-Christian times.

In an excellent study of Christian flagellants in Cutud, Pampanga written for the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii in 1998, Nicholas Barker exposed a popular misconception regarding Philippine flagellants. Since Spanish times they have been referred to as *penitentes* or penitents, supposedly performing self-mortification to expiate themselves for past sins. Barker reports that not one of the numerous flagellants he interviewed in the 1980s was there as an act of penance. The flagellants and *kristos* seek a oneness with Christ by sharing in his ordeal and publicly acting out the mystery of His passion. They are also demonstrating their masculine courage and fortitude. Devotees often make pledges to return for a certain number of years to prove their loyalty and earn protection and blessings for themselves and their families. Seen in this light, the flagellants are much more in keeping with other Southeast Asian religious rituals, which go back hundreds, if not thousands, of years. Focusing on sin, personal guilt and penitence is typical of Europe and individualistic Western culture, not the Philippines and Asia.

Many pious Westerners and westernized Filipinos feel the crowds, the vendors, the media, the gaudy costumes and carnival atmosphere of these Holy Week events are sacrilegious. They miss the point. Europeans and Americans did not bring religion to the Philippines, only their own parochial versions of Christianity. Filipinos had their own feasting and pageantry, their own holy images and their indigenous religious rituals, and deeply ingrained traditions before the Spanish came. They had come into contact with Hindu, Buddhist and Moslem practices through Asian traders long before Christianity, and they had complex animistic myths and rituals of their own. Returning to some of these roots through "folk" Christianity is a natural and culturally enriching development.

Fundamentalist religious believers find it hard to accept that mankind's religious experience has always been a mixed-up, *halo-halo* affair. Every major religion has borrowed ideas, rituals and even gods and saints from other religions quite liberally, and all have evolved and changed over the years. Increasingly free of Western domination, Filipino Christianity will probably become even more Asian in nature, as well it might, since the Philippines is very much a part of Asia. Expect more crowds, more noise, even fireworks, chanting, dancing, healers, soothsayers, holy men and women. As Filipino national identity grows and blossoms in the coming years, so will its many-sided spiritual traditions and unique religious practices.

Comments welcome, < endpage2000@hotmail.com >

End Page

by Jonathan Best

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On the road with the Christian flagellants

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Comments welcome, < endpage2000@hotmail.com >

IN MEMORIAM...from page 6

Pio filming his masterwork "Soltero" with the late Jay Ilagan

Edgar Allan Poe. Pio considered him great with a truly modern sensibility. The French poets like Baudelaire were the first to sing praises about Poe being a modern prophet. Poe wrote a short tale, "The Cask of Amontillado," where a victim is buried. That was my nightmare about my dear friend.

But I should have visited him. We all should have visited him. Joy described to me how he transformed into a baby, shrinking in size with pink skin, smooth and soft like a newborn babe with innocent bright eyes.

Pio may have died when I brought my gooey chocolate cake to him in Manila Doctors Hospital. But for seven years, there was a birth in Victory Street, San Juan, and only Joy and her family had the privilege to witness and experience it. For seven years, indeed there was a birth. There was Christmas everyday in the house of Joy. A baby was being cared for. He may have been called Pio but those infant eyes, if we are to believe the brave friends who did visit him, those infant eyes were guided and kept bright by a divinity. Pio's infant eyes were in constant search of the light, the star of the magi. And that star we all know is called Love.

Dear Pio, please forgive me, forgive us for our neglect and our absorption with the world. Please forgive us for our omission and our selfishness, our insensitivity and lack of understanding, our fears and prejudices.

I know you're having a grand time conversing with angels. Down here, we continue to miss your voice, your energetic greetings and your eyes that betray your gladness of heart. We all long to converse with you, my dear friend. But then you are probably already in deep discussion with so many soulmates.

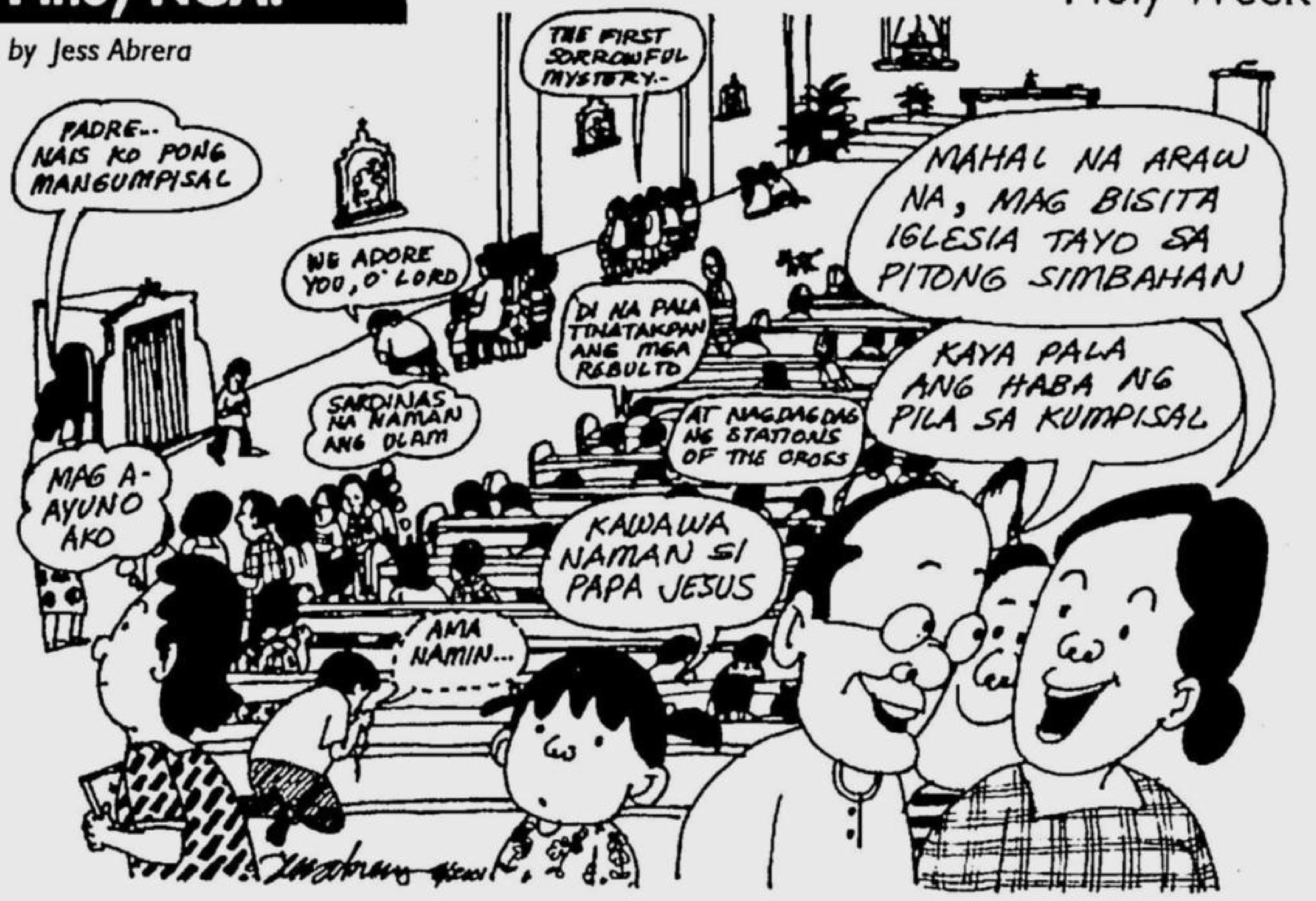
Until the next party among the stars, we pray on earth in our darkness. Lord grant us peace. Receive our brother Pio into your eternal embrace.

The author is the Artistic Director of Tanghalang Pilipino. He read this tribute at the necrological service for Pio de Castro last March 22, 2001.Pio passed away March 18.

Pinoy NGA!

by Jess Abrera

Holy Week


PADRE.. NAIS KO PONG MANGUMPISAL
THE FIRST SORROWFUL MYSTERY.-
WE ADORE YOU, O' LORD
MAHAL NA ARAW NA, MAG BISITA IGLESIA TAYO SA PITONG SIMBAHAN
DI NA PALA TINATAKPAN ANG MGA REBULTO
KAYA PALA ANG HABA NG PILA SA KUMPISAL
SARDINAS NA NAMAN ANG ULAM
AT NAGDAGDAG NG STATIONS OF THE CROSS
MAG A-AYUNO AKO
KAWAWA NAMAN SI PAPA JESUS
AMA NAMIN...

the book: "I want to change the way Japanese think; they think they are special, that Japan is a proud race that can do no wrong. For the Filipinos, I hope the book answers their question on why Japanese soldiers killed even the babies."

The book is an earnest, honest and at times, painful read, as much for the tortuous account of the massacres as it is for the virtually unedited text that reads like Japanese English. "We did not edit it," Jaramillo admits. "We wanted to be faithful to the original Japanese version. But we did check if the names, places and dates tallied." Except for a brief preface by former Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordoñez and a thought-provoking epilogue by Jose, there are no neat conclusions to tie up the victims' and soldiers' war memories. "We leave it all to the readers," says Jaramillo. "We're just telling them, 'Here are the facts.'"

Proceeds from book sales, says Jaramillo, would subsidize other books by Ishida, one each on a Korean and a Filipino comfort woman, and another on a Batangas project by Japan's Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), described by Ishida as "Japan's second conquest." Already, the writer has finished several books in a series of seven novels following the story of the Filipina war widow reduced to begging when her husband was killed. The novels touch on Japanese-Filipino relations and include references to war memorials, Japanese sex tours, Japayukis and Japanese-Filipino children.

Ishida, who dreams of writing more books before he dies, credits his age for his easy access even to original medical records of comfort women which confirmed the presence of Japan's official brothels in Asia. "They think I'm harmless," he grins. Admirably, he has found ways to cope with age as well. Says Jaramillo: "He moved to this Ermita hotel so he can just cross to the National Library for his research."

For Ishida, the war isn't over. As he faithfully records Japan's imperialist bent in his novels and documentation, he faces personal risks to his reputation. But the man says gallantly, "I'm happy to be called a traitor behind my back."

Remains of the War *is distributed exclusively by Megabooks (911-3061, telefax 911- 5398) and will be launched in June 2001 by the Fil-Am National Historical Society, as part of Philippine Studies in California universities*

CONTROVERSIES...from page 14

"Film is the most powerful of the arts, the most accessible, the easiest to appreciate," he acknowledges. "Our consciousness is shaped by the movies we watch. People in their formative years imbibe it so much that they identify with the movie characters and their values. Erap capitalized on his image, the champion of the underdog, for his political career."

A movie fan himself, Tiongson is happy to see that a new breed of filmmakers "take time out to think about their films. To make their people human, not black-and-white characters, thus moving towards a more realistic cinema."

He believes that good directors—Guillen, Abaya, de Leon, Lamangan, Reyes, Roño, Siguion-Reyna and Aguiluz—help develop an audience's taste, an achievement which, for Tiongson, goes a much longer way than classification.

"Why does something thrive? Because there's a demand. There are many bold films, but the producers just keep making them because they still find an audience."

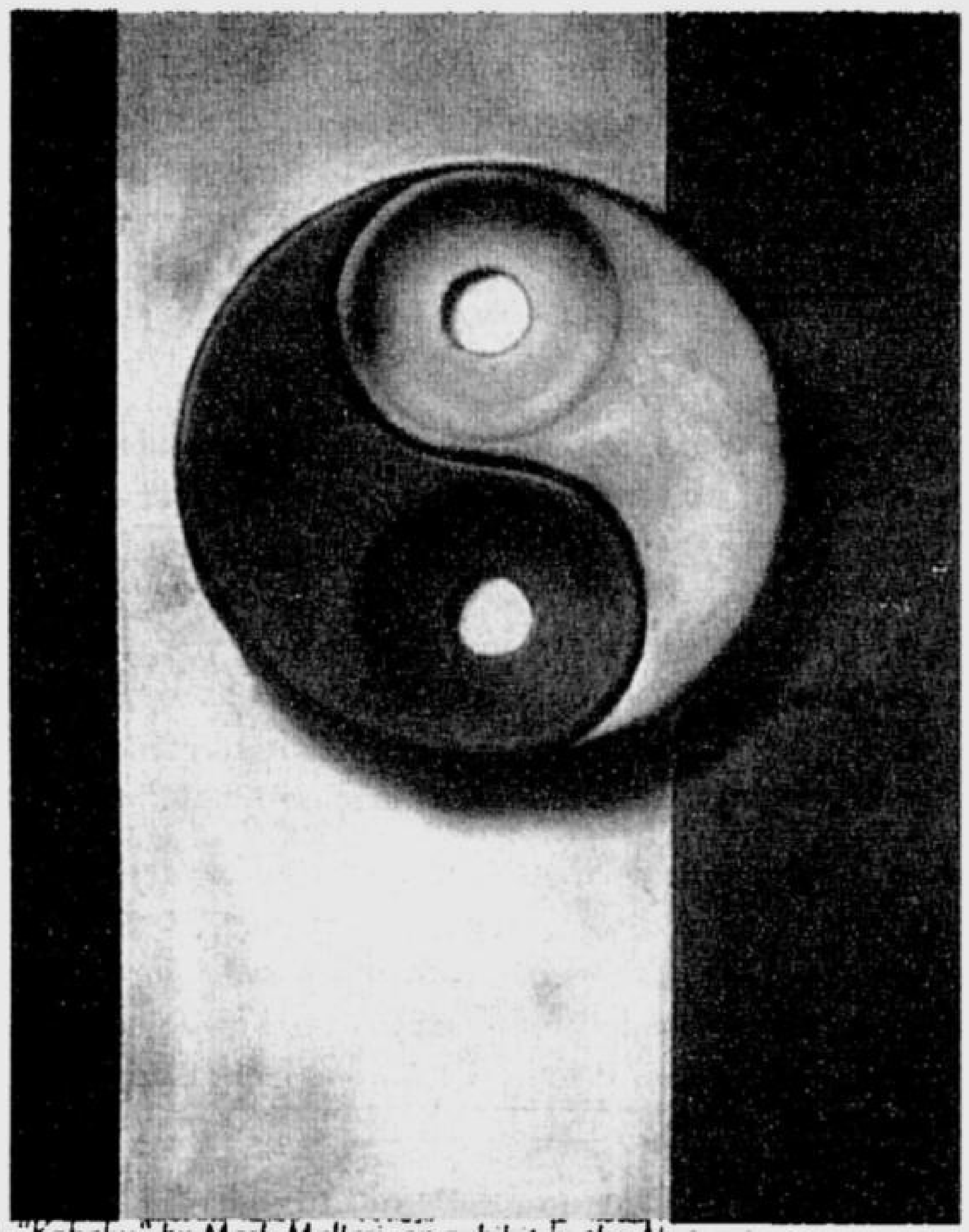
Had things been different, Tiongson would have introduced film education programs to students of the less elite schools. His battleground for his causes has always been the national consciousness. And in that arena, there's no better warrior than a good teacher.

This Week

Art

Abstract Reality, a series of meditative images by Mark Mallari at the Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City until April 25.

Multiformity, a group exhibit of paintings and sculptures by Marina Cruz, Butch Estandarte, Rodel Garcia, Lea Lim and Paulo Vinluan at the MSG Gallery, 31·Guerrero St., Xavierville Subd., Loyola Heights, QC until May 5. Call 426-0924 for details.



"Kohaku" by Mark Mallari, on exhibit in the Abstract Reality series at the Drawing Room, Makati

Collages, an exhibit of collages by Virgilio Aviado, Ben Cabrera, Arturo Luz and Mauro Malang Santos at the Locsin Building, corner Ayala and Makati Avenues, Makati City until April 19.

Arts For You, an exhibit of recent works by 28 Filipino artists at the Theater Hallway of the GSIS Museo ng Sining, Roxas Blvd., Pasay Sity. Until April 30.

Scentses, a candle and scents exhibit featuring unique designs and styles both for decorative and functional purposes at the Bayview Park Hotel lobby until April 15.

Music

Concert at the Park pays tribute to National Artist Lucrecia Kasilag in a concert titled *"Salamat, Tita* King!" on April 8, 6 p.m. at the Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium. Featured group is the PWU Music Ensemble breathing life to some of her works. Admission is free.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

Onstage

"Run For Your Wife," a farce written by Ray Cooney about a taxi driver who has two wives living in different areas in London, goes onstage at the William J. Shaw Theater, Shangri-La Plaza until April 22, and at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza, Makati City from April 26 to May 6. For details, call 633-4821 to 25.

Food

Terry Selection, a delicatessen and wine shop, recently opened at 2136 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City to bring a "little corner of Europe" to gourmet lovers. It also offers an extensive assortment of the finest cheeses from Germany, England, Italy, France and Spain. For details, call 729-7906/07.

7-Eleven introduces **Oden**, the latest addition to the Quick Bite line of ready-to-eat snacks. Choose from six tasty munchies of squid ball, hot squid ball, fish ball, squid roll, kikiam and tempura all served in a bowl of seafood soup. Available at selected 7-Eleven stores.

The New World Renaissance Hotel showcases a **Seafood Market** promotion from Monday to Saturday for either lunch or dinner. Select from a trolley of fresh seafood and shellfish and have them cooked according to your preference. For details, call 811-6888.

Atbp

Mandy Navasero's annual summer photo workshop is organizing a **Holy Week Phototrek** from April 12-15 in Ilocos Region and Cagayan Valley. Only 20 slots are available. For details, call 522-1901 and 522-1905.

Organizational Change Consultants International, Inc. presents **attitudinal and behavioral change programs** for kids, teens, and adults: FLEX (Foundations of Leadership Excellence, April 21-22 at the Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Hotel; Kids' Play May 5-6, at Martha's Vineyard; and Xplore, a teen camp adventure, May 11-13. For details, call 897-5219/897-7856 or e-mail erquinto@vasia.com.

PWU-TWFC offers **Baking Workshop on Commercial Bread Making** on April 23-27 from 5 to 9 p.m. Learn how to make homemade cinnamon rolls, soft rolls, Spanish/cheese bread and others. For details, call 524-2609 or 526-8421 loc. 142.

The PWU-Center for Traditional and Alternative Health Care will hold a **Holistic Summer Workshop** starting April 18. Courses offered are Aromatherapy, Reflexology, Diet for Longevity, Sports Massage, Yoga and Meditation, Creative Arts Therapy, Substance-Abuse Control Workshop, BioMagnetic Healing, Oriental Medicine, Iridology and Therapeutic Massage. For details, call 524-2609 or 526-8421 loc. 142.

Putting-up a Day Care/Preschool seminar-workshop will be held on April 8, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Asian Center for Christian Ministries Bldg., 102 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. For details, call 823-2615.

Fashion Walk, the new fashion haven at Duty Free Philippines, brings together the world's finest brands for its end of season sale until April 15. Avail of big discounts from an extensive footwear selection, fashion watches, eyewear, fashion accessories, clothes, leather goods and traveling accessories.

The Art Innovative group of artists offers an **alternative arts workshop** starting April 23. Courses offered are sculptural terracotta, pottery, stained glass mosaic, earthenware pottery, bottle frosting/painting, tabletop topiary, copperwire jewelry, candle painting/embellishment and kiddie kitchen. For inquiries, call 727-4517 and 854-3496.

Art Pack founder Bambi Cordero conducts **unique art courses** at Café Hon, 2nd Level, CRM3 Bldg., Kamias Road, QC. Courses offered are Deco-Stained Glass Simulation (April 22 and 29); Mirror Frost Spectrum (May 6); Porcelain Painting (May 13); Decoupage and Antiquing Technique (May 20 and 27), Clay Sculpting (June 3) and Metal Art (June 10). For details, call 932-4428.

Registrations are ongoing for theater arts enthusiasts as Tanghalang Pilipino and the Cultural Center of the Philippines conduct its **2001 Summer Theater Arts Workshops** from April 16-May 27.The workshop will introduce fundamentals in various theater arts crafts and offers advance work for both beginners and practising theater artists. For details, call 832-1125 loc. 1620.

***Kuwentong Adarna:* Summer Storytelling and Workshop for Kids,** three series of four-day workshops for children aged 3 to 6 and 7 to 10 from April 18 to May 5. For details, call 410-5200.

All graduates of Maryknoll College and Miriam College are invited to participate in the search for **Amazing Alumni Achievers** (3 A's). The search coincides with the diamond jubilee celebration of Miriam College. For details, call 426-0170 or email alumni@mc.edu.ph.

Gantimpala Theater Foundation offers **summer workshops** in acting, dance, voice, visual arts and Taebo classes at SM City Fairview, SM City Bacoor and at the DLSU-College of St. Benilde, from April 18 to May 27 (until May 13 only in Bacoor). For details, call 897-9986 and 895-8314.

Art for Life and Leisure, a workshop on drawing, painting, printmaking, claywork, plastercraft, candlemaking, *batik*-making, textile painting, glasspainting, glassfrosting and recycling art starting April 17. For details, call 740-5315.

The Effie Nañas School of Classical Ballet is offering a two-month **Summer Ballet Workshop.** It will culminate with a ballet concert at the Teatro Aguinaldo on May 27. For inquiries, call the Capezio Centre, EDSA Shangri-la Plaza Mall (Level 4) at 633-7871.

***"Siglo Filipino:* Odyssey of a Nation,"** a retrospective of the most significant events and personalities in Philippine history during the past 100 years written for television by National Artist For Literature Nick Joaquin, is now available on video. For details, call 527-2207.

Chinese cancer expert Dr. Xie Wenwei's latest book, **"Cancer-Death? Treatment of Cancer the Chinese Way,"** is now available. Other cancer books "The Cancer Terminator" and "Never Give Up! Survival From Cancer" written by Prof. Wang Zhen Guo are also available at Room 307 Solmac Bldg., 84 Dapitan cor. Banawe Sts., QC or call 415-8714.

The British Council will host a two-part workshop series on **Art Education** on April 16-20 at Miriam College and on April 23-27 in Cebu. The workshop is designed to provide in-service training for elementary art teachers. For details, call 927-2421.

The Hotel Inter-Continental Manila will conduct a traditional **Visita Iglesia** pilgrimage on April 12 to eight historically significant churches in Las Piñas, Cavite and Batangas. On April 15, there will be an Eat n' Swim Easter Egg Hunt by the poolside and the Jeepney Bakery will offer specially crafted chocolate Easter eggs, bunnies and cakes.

X-manila

Mt. Kanlaon-Earthday Celebration on April 10-15. Activities include medical mission, clean-up, treeplanting, giving of school supplies and goodies to the families at the foot of the mountain. For details, call 806-1720 (7 p.m. onwards) or 0919-5785984.

Davao's **Teatro! Arts & Drama Summer Workshop** is offering courses on Arts & Drama Workshop for Kids (ages 3-12), Teen Theater (ages 13-19 years), and Teatro Sa Klasrum: Workshop on Storytelling for teachers of all levels from April 17-May 10. For details, call (082) 296-2384 or visit the Teatro! website at www.geocities.com/davaoteatro.

Hiyasining, a traveling exhibit of selected contemporary Philippine artworks from the Vargas Museum collection, goes to the Jorge Vargas Community Center, Bago City, Negros Occidental until April 12. There will also be a lecture on Philippine art and an art workshop for students. For details, call 527-2192 or email info@ncca.gov.ph.

Manila-based artists Victor Henry C. Tejero, Brezhnev Larlar and Liza Fernandez will hold a **dance and theater workshop** at the Edwin Duero School of Dance, 3/F PKG Commercial Bldg., 86 Comision Civil St., Jaro, Iloilo City starting April 16. For details, call 329-4257.

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.